Herald and News

Editorial Page

This Deserves Support

Probably only a relatively small share of the American people realize that the country is voting, in slow stages, whether or not to allow the long disenfranchised citizens of the District of Columbia to vote for president and vice president in future national elections.

The proposal is in the form of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which of course had first to be approved by the Congress. It cleared that hurdle and is now, according to the law, going the rounds of the 50 state legislatures.

To become the law it must win approval of three-fourths of the states, which in the present instance means 38 of the 50. So far it has been endorsed by five and rejected by just one, Arkansas. That leaves 33 to go, with a good many states scheduling action in their early 1961 sessions.

The chances seem to be strong that presidential voting for the District will gain the necessary national support, though inevitably it will take time to get the needed state action.

Most Americans, were they to attend to the matter, likely would find sense in the argument that the old bars against D.C. voting are no longer valid.

The original idea was that since most citizens of the District would be employes of the federal government, they would be predisposed always to vote to retain the party in power.

Time and events have outmoded this notion. A high percentage of the government's employes living in the District are civil service workers unaffected by changes of regime.

More important even than this, Washington's growth has meant that each year a higher and higher proportion of federal workers are finding places to live in the city's suburbs beyond the District. There they are quite free to vote not only in national but in state and local elections.

The net effect of the present bar, therefore, would seem to be to disenfranchise only part of the federal working establishment and by that fact to discriminate against it.

Common sense and fair play suggest there should be an early end to a situation not at all envisioned by the Constitution's framers when they imposed the original ban on District of Columbia voting.

With Authority

Often it is said that the U.S. presidency is what the man makes it. In a short space of days, President Kennedy has made abundantly clear that he intends to use its authority to the hilt.

As with his first press conference, his first State of the Union address to Congress was tough, realistic, bristling with the lexicon of leadership, tinged with the eloquence that can lift men up and set them to laboring at hard tasks.

Whether the great bulk of the American people will in fact follow Kennedy's lead as he sets out his specific legislative proposals is something we cannot yet know.

But it is evident from expert samplings of opinion that his crisp, sure-handed conduct in the White House has impressed many, including many Republicans, who did not vote for him in November. The GOP dissent from his speech in Congress does not appear to alter this situation.

That dissent questioned whether he could accomplish his welfare objectives and potentially costly foreign assistance programs and still maintain the dollar's soundness. It asked how inflation and the gold outflow could be checked under such pressures.

In his appraisal of our defense posture, our position with both tried friends and neutrals abroad, our economic condition at home, the President was direct, candid, sobering.

Some who heard him speak disagreed that things were as bad as he said they were. The outsider looking in cannot know what facts Kennedy has been studying since he took over.

The really notable feature of the speech, indeed, is that while it is grim it is not gloomy. It points to peril, but declares confidently that we can surmount the danger if we understand it and grapple with it.

Nor does the President dwell wholly on the menace hostile communism represents to free men.

Through all his public utterances he drums insistently on the positive side of life, on the things free men can do for themselves and each other because they are right and not simply because they are a way of fighting off Moscow and Peiping.

Kennedy inherited a general domestic and world situation he believes is gravely challenging. Whether or not all Americans agree with his appraisal, they cannot question that he has been brutally frank in laying the story before them as he sees it.

Possibly the greater test of the President's evident strong urge to candor, however, may come a year from now when he must report again to the Congress and the nation. If he finds the situation still fundamentally grim, he will have the chance to prove his courage by saying so.

By then the country will have a much fuller notion whether the earmarks of firm leadership he now displays are the real measure of the man.

Somewhat Safer

When all the figures are in, 1960 may be the safest year in history, percentagewise. About 92,000 persons died in accidents, says the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. This was about the same as 1959, but when allowance is made for population increase, the rate is slightly lower.

Motor vehicles were responsible for the deaths of 38,000, a few hundred more than in 1959. But since number of miles traveled was up, the rate may be an all-time low.

Accidents around the home took 26,500 lives, up 500. Deaths in public accidents other than traffic continued about the same level—16,500—as did fatal work accidents — 13,800.

All of which seems to indicate that safety campaigns are paying off, at least in some categories.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—What president of the United States once served as minister to Colombia?

A—William Henry Harrison.

Q—Which state set up the country's first state department of agriculture?

A—Georgia in 1874.

Q—How long can a camel go without water?

A—A maximum of 17 days in the desert, in summer.

BARBS

A stitch in time usually is a surprise to a married man.

Our butcher bill reminds us that every time a little pig goes to market we have a chance to squeal.

On the Sea

ACROSS
1 Levantine ketch
5 Underwater vessel (coil.)
8 Log boat
12 Conceal
13 Blackbird of cuckoo family
14 Curved molding
15 Notion
16 Light touch
17 Adolescent year
18 Antiquated
20 Artists' frames
22 Usher
25 Incorporated (ab.)
28 Spinning toy
29 Expunge
34 Tumult
36 Exist
37 Brazilian seaport
38 Frostier
40 Universal language
42 Slender
43 Seraglio
44 Craft
46 Hypothetical structural units
47 Minister
50 Enrage
54 Stair post
58 Exchange premium
59 Point
62 Unclothed
63 Sidelong look
64 Fish
65 Gaelic
66 World War II boats
67 Feline animal
68 Permits

DOWN
1 Ocean vessel
2 Opera by Verdi
3 Roman date
4 Stop
5 Enervate
6 Feminine appellation
7 Gnawer
8 Decays
9 Awry
10 Sense
11 Number (pl.)
19 East (Fr.)
21 Solar disk
23 Male swan
24 Musical dramas
25 Flag
26 Fastidious
27 Coconut fiber
30 Short-napped fabric
31 Gudrun's husband (myth.)
32 Voiced
33 Shade trees
35 Beverage
39 Mature
41 Table scrap
45 Unit of weight
48 Caper
49 Insurgent
50 European gull
51 Eras
52 Regimen prescribed
53 Drone bees
55 Merchandise
56 Formerly
57 Sediment
60 Girl's name
61 Fondle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Likes Viewpoint

Mr. Rich Pastega's letter to the editor, which appeared in your Jan. 27, 1961 issue, was excellent. I heartily approve of the viewpoint he expressed.

Kenneth E. Lambie

THEY SAY...

The impending deterioration of our streams and rivers is perhaps the most striking of our findings. Unless the country is ready to cope with water pollution on a far greater scale, it appears that many streams will become putrescent and rivers open sewers.
—Report by Resources for the Future, Inc.

It is the Communist scheme of things that makes for the enormous inefficiency of things and the dreariness.
—Nobel Prize-winning scientist Dr. Harold Urey, back from trip to Russia.

This is not a contest (in the United Nations) in which one side always has to win or lose. Why do you (Americans) assume that everyone who is not for you is against you?
—V. K. Krishna Menon, Indian ambassador to the U.N.

It feels good to be up here again where my boys and girls can go out of the house without worrying about someone hitting them.
—James Gabrielle, who moved to Providence, R.I., from New Orleans after battling against segregation.

Thoughts

Who knows whether he will not turn and repent, and leave a blessing behind him, a cereal offering and a drink offering, for the Lord, your God?—Joel 2:14.

The altar of sacrifice is the touchstone of character. — O. P. Clifford.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah. — Psalms 84:8.

Who rises from prayer a better man, his prayer is answered. —George Meredith.

And that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love. — Ephesians 3:17.

The measure of a Christian is not in the height of his grasp but in the depth of his love. — Clarence Jordan.

And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. — II Timothy 3:15.

I speak as a man of the world to men of the world, and I say to you: Search the Scriptures. The Bible is the Book of all others to read at all ages and in all conditions of human life.— John Quincy Adams.

HAPPY TIMES

Retired Teachers' Talents Valuable

By MARIE DAERR

You thousands of retired schoolteachers, what use are you making now of your experience and training?

And you who are soon to join the ranks of pensioners, what plans have you for filling the leisure hours that will be thrust upon you?

A 78-year-old retired teacher, Mrs. Charles D. Barnes, has an answer for you.

Her volunteer job for retirement years is teaching English to aliens whose goal is American citizenship.

She does this in a big city-operated hospital whose patients include foreign-born people who want to learn how to speak and write our language. Also, they want to become Americans.

This goal is most important to Mrs. Barnes.

"If they don't want to become citizens, I can't get too interested in them," Mrs. Barnes said.

Among Mrs. Barnes' students is a Russian-born woman who had university education abroad.

"This woman's gratitude is touching," Mrs. Barnes said. "At holiday time, she gave me a handkerchief with the words, 'Dear Teacher,' embroidered on it."

Another of Mrs. Barnes' students is a Puerto Rican, a laborer who had little formal education but who is eager to learn English.

"I couldn't speak a word of Spanish when we started, but I'm already changing that situation," Mrs. Barnes said. "I borrowed a Spanish grammar from the public library.

"I also use language records and flash cards as teaching tools. The cards are excellent, because they give a word, the first letter of the word in large print and a picture that helps on the meaning of the word."

Mrs. Barnes is delighted with the Puerto Rican's diligence so far as homework is concerned.

"He is really eager to learn which is a great satisfaction to a teacher," Mrs. Barnes said.

Still another Barnes student is a professor from the Ukraine who spoke five languages but not English.

Another request for help in English came from a foreign-born doctor who is doing research in pathology at the hospital.

Sometimes Mrs. Barnes finds herself teaching an American-born patient.

"Not all our people had a chance for much schooling," Mrs. Barnes said. "Some were brought up in remote rural areas."

Teaching isn't Mrs. Barnes' only volunteer task. She fills in on many jobs, weighing patients, answering phones, making out requisitions, keeping records. Her latest project is helping time pass for free-clinic patients who sometimes wait hours to be seen by doctors. She teaches them sewing or knitting or reads to them.

"I started volunteering here 15 years ago, telling stories to the youngsters," Mrs. Barnes said. "I'm grateful I'm still useful."

Q—I am a 67-year-old widow. How much money can I earn in 1961 without losing benefits from social security?—Mrs. G.B.

A—You may earn $1,200 or less without losing benefits. If you earn more than $1,200, $1 of your benefits will be withheld for each $2 of your earnings above $1,200 and up to $1,500. For every $1 of earnings above $1,500, $1 of benefits will be withheld.

Q—I lost my wife nearly three years ago. Exactly two years and one week after her death I read in the paper that I was entitled to a death benefit. At the social security office they told me that if I had come one week earlier I could have had the money. Neither the doctor, the hospital nor the funeral director told me about this benefit. Is it still possible to collect?—R.M.

A—Unfortunately for you, the law states that, to collect this death benefit, the person who pays the funeral expenses must report the death within a two-year period. Your experience shows how vital it is to keep up on what is available to you in the way of social security benefits.

OTHER EDITORS' OPINIONS

(NEW YORK TIMES)

By the narrowest possible majority the Supreme Court has endorsed the right of local authorities to impose prior administrative censorship on the movies. In this 5-4 decision we think the minority, headed by Chief Justice Warren, took the sounder view and the one that in the long run will prevail.

In saying this, we hold no brief for an industry that has churned forth—alongside many admirable productions — a stream of sex-crammed, crime-strewn motion pictures pandering to lascivious instincts and degraded tastes. In its grasp for the box office, the industry has called down on its own head the demand for censorship now heard so widely. One could almost say it deserves what it gets.

But one cannot say this if one has regard for the most fundamental principles of freedom that far outweigh in importance the faults of the movie industry. Such principles are freedom of speech and freedom from prior censorship. The Supreme Court itself held in the "Miracle" case in 1952 that "expression by means of motion pictures is included within the free speech and free press guarantee of the First and Fourteenth Amendments." Since then it has repeatedly limited the authority of censorship boards.

But in the present case it was asked for the broadest possible ruling against arbitrary and prior censorship. We regret that it did not give such a ruling; for in our view it is as potentially dangerous for any board to prevent the first instance as it would be to prevent a handbill or book or newspaper from being printed. If the movie, or the printed sheet, is obscene or slanderous or otherwise impermissible under the statutes, its distribution ought to be blocked after its appearance in accordance with already-approved legal procedure.

In 1957 the Supreme Court upheld the Government's right to act against obscenity, and also the right of a city (New York) to obtain an injunction against distribution. But the difference between those rulings and this one is that they involved court action; this involves administrative fiat. In those cases the burden was on the state to attack the publication; in this it is on the producer or distributor to seek permission, which may be rejected without cause. There is a world of difference.

We do not believe that any administrative body should have the right thus to stop a publication or a film before its appearance. Prior censorship leads too easily to the stultification of ideas. But absence of censorship does not imply absence of responsibility.

EDSON IN WASHINGTON

Food Stamp Plan Has Good Record

By PETER EDSON
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NEA) — With a deep bow to Henry Wallace and Milo Perkins, this is where a lot of old New Dealers came in.

President Kennedy's announcement that the food stamp plan will be revived on a pilot basis in six areas brings back one of the last of the New Deal experiments that worked.

Kennedy's purpose is twofold. First is to give the needy unemployed on relief a better diet. Second is to help move off the market surplus foods, thus helping the farmers.

The new administration will work out its own rules. They may be quite different from those in effect 20 years ago. But the original food stamp plan worked like this:

In designated areas that agreed to support the plan, people on relief obtained a 50 per cent increase in food - buying power through use of government food order stamps.

To get the extra food, people on the public assistance rolls were entitled to buy orange-colored stamps which they could exchange for any groceries or meats in the stores.

For each dollar's worth of orange stamps they bought at welfare offices they got, free, 50 cents' worth of blue stamps. The blue stamps were good as cash for the purchase of foods designated as government surplus.

In May, 1939, when the food stamp plan was first put in operation at Rochester, N.Y., there were 17 foods on the surplus list. They were: butter, eggs, lard, dried beans, corn meal, wheat flour, graham flour, hominy grits, dried prunes, fancy rice, dried raisins, fresh apples, fresh grapefruit, fresh oranges, fresh pears, dry onions and pork — excluding prepared or processed pork products.

Each stamp was the equivalent of a government check in small coin denominations — 5 to 50 cents.

Grocers could cash them at any U.S. depository bank or use them to buy more food supplies from wholesalers.

Food bought with the stamps went through the same trade channels as other foodstuffs bought with cash. Profits were taken at usual producer, retailer or wholesaler levels.

The only subsidy in the transaction was that the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation supplied the surplus foods at its acquisition and transportation costs. But this disposal cut down its storage costs.

The government's money came from an old law authorizing use of one third of the U.S. customs receipts— known as Section 22 funds — for encouraging larger sales of U.S. farm products. This source is still available.

There was no stigma of taking charity attached to the food stamp purchasers. The incentive furnished through the plan was to buy more orange stamps so as to get more free blue stamps. The result was that people had better diets.

Introduced late in the New Deal, the food stamp plan in its first year, at a cost of 10 million dollars, had been extended to about 1 million people in 100 communities. By July 1941 four million people in 300 communities were covered and the cost had risen to around 100 million dollars.

The plan died out in 1943 under wartime conditions. Unemployment had practically disappeared. Food surpluses had disappeared, too, and rationing and price controls were in. At the time it was abandoned, costs had run to 260 million dollars.

Efforts were made to revive the plan in Congress during the 1955 and 1958 recessions. Senators George D. Aiken (R-Vt.), Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.), and Rep. Leonor Sullivan (D-Mo.) were principal sponsors.

A two - year authorization for a trial program was finally approved by Congress in 1959. But the Eisenhower administration never used the authority.

Department of Agriculture's secret advisory council under Secretary Ezra Taft Benson opposed it. The grounds were that the costs for feeding 25 million people estimated to be on inadequate diet would run as high as 2½ billion dollars a year and that this would not reduce surpluses appreciably.

THE DOCTOR SAYS . . .

Specialists Warn Of Skin Reaction

By HAROLD T. HYMAN, M.D.
Written for NEA

Not so long ago, going for a swim was a simple, straightforward performance. You undressed, hung your clothes on a hickory limb, did or didn't put on a bathing suit, dived in, splashed around, dried in the air, dressed and went on your way.

Not so today. You need as accessory equipment goggles, fins, a suntan preparation, a sunburn preventive, a box of tissues for smearing on or smearing off one or the other or both preparations. And then, maybe you don't go in the water at all. You sunbathe, alligator-fashion, on the beach or at poolside.

Now you wouldn't think there was much danger in this sort of swim that involved a minimum of exposure to water. But there you might be wrong as a trio of skin specialists warned in a recent issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

It seems that when you apply certain sun tanning agents and then expose yourself to artificial or real sun rays, you may find yourself suffering from a skin irritation (dermatitis) that stings or burns and that causes an eruption of blisters, little raised nubbins (papules) or hives. And if you apply certain sunburn protectives, you may find yourself with a fairly long - lasting brownish discoloration of the exposed area.

But that's not the worst. If you happen to be taking one of a long list of drugs and then sun yourself, you're apt to develop any one of a number of unpleasant and-or unsightly skin reactions on exposed surfaces.

These so - called photosensitive or phototoxic reactions may ruin what might otherwise have been a delightful and relaxing holiday.

Here is a partial list of commonly used drugs that may produce a photosensitive or phototoxic eruption if you happen to be in the relatively small group of people who have the misfortune to be candidates for unpleasant skin reactions: (1) a sulfa preparation; (2) an antidiabetic mouth tablet (not insulin); (3) a drug that stimulates the excretion of retained body fluids (diuretic); (4) certain tranquilizers; (5) certain antihistamines; (6) certain of the miracle antibiotics; (7) certain mouth tablets used in the treatment of ringworm and related conditions.

Fortunately, none of these reactions is more than a nuisance disturbance. Thus far, there have been no reports of serious effects or of permanent scarring or discoloration. But I thought you might like to know that it's sometimes a good idea, if you're going for a swim, to swim in the water.

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

Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Thursday, Feb. 9, the 40th day of the year with 325 more in 1961.

The moon is approaching its new phase.

The evening stars are Venus, Mars and Mercury.

On this day in history:

In 1773, the ninth U.S. President, William Henry Harrison, was born.

In 1825, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams President of the United States.

In 1900, 7,000 construction workers in Chicago voted to strike for an eight-hour day.

In 1933, the League of Nations directed Japan to surrender her Chinese conquests.

In 1943, Japan evacuated Guadalcanal in the face of overwhelming American military superiority.

Thought for today: French writer Emile Zola said: "Truth is on the march and nothing can stop it."