

Herald and News

Editorial Page

Rugged Highway

The exact status of the developing 41,000-mile interstate highway system needs to be cleared up.

It isn't proper to say it's "behind schedule" in the matter of miles of road constructed, since federal officials say there are no year-to-year mileage deadlines. The only goal is to finish the entire network by 1972.

Right now the record shows 8,000 miles built and another 2,300 miles of previously constructed toll roads, tunnels and bridges drawn into the system.

Construction is under way on another 4,100 miles, with engineering work or land acquisition proceeding on 10,000 more. Altogether, work has been completed or begun on nearly 25,000 miles, about 60 per cent of the total.

When President Kennedy says the program is in trouble, he means it could have trouble getting up the money to finish by 1972.

The 90 per cent or more of cost generally supplied by the federal government can, under the law, come only from revenues fed into the special highway fund from gasoline taxes and other highway user levies.

With the total price tag for the program having already been boosted several times to cover rising costs, the judgment is that the 1972 deadline can't be met from presently

authorized revenue sources. Completion would have to be stretched out to 1977.

Mounting evidence gleaned by House committee and independent investigators shows that the "rising costs" include untold millions of dollars scandalously lost—through lack of proper federal control—in graft, extravagant waste, and mismanagement at the state level.

To do the job on time means digging up another \$9.7 billion. The President thinks it can be done if Congress will keep the existing four cent federal gasoline tax and add new, stiffer levies on the big trucks which use the roads.

The overall cost picture won't be affected by Kennedy's order directing immediate release of \$724 million which normally would have been allotted from the fund in the months up to June 30.

About 10 states, including New York, Ohio, Texas, California and the Dakotas, are sufficiently advanced in planning to put the money quickly to use. Here and there, contract letting may also be speeded. But in many areas the money can't be handled now. Already allotted funds are backed up, waiting for plans.

For the long pull, however, the problem of rocketing costs has to be met tomorrow.

Too Lopsided

For more than 30 years the Democrats in presidential election years have been giving the Republicans fits in the country's big cities. Stung by the closeness of their defeat in 1960, GOP leaders are setting out to try to reverse the trend.

Most people think it all began with Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932. Actually, the first significant switch occurred four years earlier, when Alfred E. Smith lost to Herbert Hoover.

Lost under Hoover's electoral landslide was the fact that Smith won five of the nation's 12 largest cities and hung up a total vote in the 12 greater than Hoover's. Also unnoticed: a 400,000 decline in the Republican vote in those areas back in 1924.

Thus 1924 and especially 1928 signaled what was coming. In 1932 Roosevelt won all but Philadelphia among the big 12. Thereafter followed the deluge, with Roosevelt winning the entire lot in 1936, 1940 and 1944, and Harry Truman duplicating in 1948.

Dwight Eisenhower broke the spell in 1952 by taking Los Angeles and San Francisco among the 12. Four years later he repeated in those and also notched Chicago, Baltimore and Milwaukee.

But the new pattern failed to hold. President Kennedy in 1960 not only cleaned the boards in the 12 comparable cities, but won 26 of the nation's top 40. In those cities, the GOP saw three million votes peeled off its 1956 presidential totals.

Their city losses were decisive in such big electoral vote states as New York, Penn-

sylvania, Illinois and Michigan. They narrowly saved California.

The big question among Republican leaders was: "What hit us?" They're trying to find out, with a new special committee on big city campaigning. It will soon meet to plot tactics aimed at recapturing enough of the city vote to win key elections in 1962 and regain the presidency in 1964.

Party men are attacking the problem on several fronts, but the one uppermost in their minds right now has to do with campaign organization. They say very frankly they were improperly organized in many cities last fall.

Some see their toughest task that of breaking into the national, racial and religious minorities which went heavily Democratic in November. These make up 78 per cent of New York's population, 65 per cent of Philadelphia's and bulk large in Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago and many other places.

Leaders found that in Philadelphia 85 per cent of their local chieftains were not members of the large minority groups. They discovered, too, that they were undermanned in 500 of the city's 1,600 precincts and not manned at all in 300.

They've begun by examining six cities as a pilot project. In the end they may study all 26 they lost.

Anyone interested in the health of the two major parties must wish them luck. No party should have a monopoly of the cities, the farms, or any region. Sensible balance seems a wise goal.



Laos Situation Poses Threat To Kennedy Official Policy

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
WASHINGTON (AP)—The tide of civil war in Laos is beginning to run dangerously against American efforts to unify and neutralize that Southeast Asian country.

Worried Kennedy administration officials are now trying to figure out new moves this country or its allies can make to achieve a military stalemate and provide a fresh basis for diplomatic negotiations.

Officials hope to avoid a military showdown with the Soviet Union in Laos, but increasingly it is being said privately by authorities here that the United States will never allow the Communist conquest of Laos as it

would endanger all of Southeast Asia.

Unless the situation can be improved from the Western point of view in the next two or three weeks, the United States will have to take a much stronger position than it has so far in trying to bring the civil war under control, responsible authorities say.

One possible action under consideration is to give the Soviet government a new warning of the seriousness of American intentions not to settle for anything less than a neutralized Laos.

U.S. Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson, who returned to Moscow from Washington early last week, is expected to explore the Laotian crisis with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev as soon as possible.

The worsening of the situation in Laos, as evaluated in official quarters here, is due to a heavy inflow of Soviet weapons and Communist military technicians from North Viet Nam.

A Soviet airlift to the rebels in the northern and eastern parts of the country has been delivering tons of weapons and ammunition including artillery for almost three months.

Truck convoys from North Viet Nam have also been delivering Soviet weapons. The total amount of supplies the rebels have received since December is estimated at 4,000 tons or more.

This buildup for an estimated force of 2,000 Communist and pro-Communist troops, officials here said, has given the Reds a slight edge in military resources over the royal Lao army operating under the government of Premier Boum Oum.

The Reds have taken possession of about a third of the country. It is in the sense of increased military power and extensive territorial control that the situation is beginning to go against American aims.

It has gone badly in another respect. A regime has been established at Xieng Khouang in the name of former neutralist premier Souvanna Phouma.

Phouma is regarded here as a neutralist rather than a Communist, but he is bitter against the United States on the ground that it did not support his government when he was premier late last year.

Phouma's identification with the regime set up in rebel territory gives that regime considerable prestige since he is widely regarded outside Laos as perhaps the only man capable of unifying the country.

Efforts were recently made to persuade Phouma to join the Boum Oum government. He is reported to have told the Western powers that he would not take part in any government unless it also included representation for Communist-oriented Pathet-Lao.

Other political moves either originated or supported by Washington have failed. The Soviet Union turned down a proposal to re-establish an international control commission over Laos unless it was preceded by an international conference.

Communist governments have also rebuffed a proposal from King Savang Vathana for creation of a three-national neutral commission to investigate conditions in Laos and make proposals for a settlement.

A grave problem is the danger of a U.S.-Soviet arms race in Laos. If the Soviet arms buildup continues to the point where the military balance is seriously threatened some officials here believe the United States will have to go in for heavy military aid to the Boum Oum government. If that process continues on each side the fear is that it might lead to broadening the war very considerably.

Tax Foundation Book Is Must Reading For All

By LYLE C. WILSON
WASHINGTON (UPI)—Tax Foundation, Inc., has published, in a bright red paper cover, a book on government finance that a child with eighth grade skill in arithmetic should be able to understand.

The child could understand most of it, anyway. This book is recommended reading, however, for the child's father and any other taxpayer. Several tabulations in the Tax Foundations' publication should be read with special attention to a socke line from President Kennedy's inaugural address. The line was this:

"Fellow Americans, ask not what your country will do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

It has been a long time since Americans thought of government in the terms suggested by the new President. Perhaps they never did think in those terms. The pressure on government is now, and long has been, to do something for our fellow Americans.

This pressure is effective. It has boosted government spending by many billions of dollars. For example, government spent about \$68 billion in fiscal year 1954 under the first Eisenhower budget. For the current, 1961, fiscal year, to spend about \$90.5 billion.

You may believe that this big hike in government spending over a seven-year period should be charged to the cold war and other international deliriums. Not so. The 1954 expenditure for major national security was almost \$47 billion. The current budget proposes major national security spending just short of \$46 billion, about \$1 billion down from 1954.

So, where are the areas of bigger spending over this seven-year period? They are in the domestic spread of spending largely in behalf of our fellow Americans to whom Kennedy appealed on inauguration day. International affairs and finance spending, which is not directly in behalf of Americans, did increase from 1954 to 1961 from \$1.7 to \$2.1 billion.

Veterans services and benefits, however, increased during that period from \$4.2 to \$3.3 billion, labor and welfare from \$2.4 to \$4.4 billion; agriculture and its resources from \$2.5 to \$5.4 billion; natural resources from \$1.3 to \$2 billion; commerce and housing from \$817 million to \$1.7 billion. The government went into the red for a great deal of this spend-



EDSON IN WASHINGTON

Readers Differ On Humor Of Kennedy

By PETER EDSON
Washington Correspondent
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.
WASHINGTON (NEA)—A collection of cute sayings by President John F. Kennedy, printed in this space recently, has drawn from readers vehement comment of two exactly opposite types.

It seems that people either like the President's pretty wit, or else they think it's terrible, and he ought to cut it out.

Letters from two Pittsburgh Press readers are typical of the lot. And because this question of injecting humor into politics seems to have stirred up a minor controversy, it may be worthwhile letting both sides of the argument have a fling at it in approximately equal space, as a nightcap to the Kennedy-Nixon great debate.

First, here is what a lady reader has to say:

"I should begin this letter with a greeting, 'Sir,' but to me that name implies respect and, after reading your columns concerning President Kennedy's 'sense of humor,' I'm afraid any appropriate greeting for you escapes me.

"It is obvious at this point that I am a Republican. But let's not digress. What you consider humor on the part of Mr. Kennedy, I consider rank sarcasm, which is one brand of humor I can't appreciate at all. It is usually a trade-mark of people who seek to belittle others in order to raise their own stature.

"To my mind it has exactly the opposite effect. One of the things I disliked intensely about J.F.K. was his constant belittling of Mr. Nixon and his remarks during the debates. It showed me what kind of a man he really is.

"I was also proud of Mr. Nixon's composure during all this. He did not stoop so low as Mr. Kennedy in his remarks.

"With that off my chest—and since I am not at all interested in a Kennedy scrapbook—humorous or otherwise—let's find something a little more interesting to write about—hmmmm."

For the other side of this argument, a male reader writes: "Dear Sir: Speaking of jewels of humor during the presidential election, don't forget to remember the gems flashed by the commentators. Specifically, I might mention Huntley-Brinkley interviewing Richard M. Nixon Oct. 15.

"Mr. Brinkley (in his mimical fashion) said to Mr. Nixon, 'I understand that the people of Whittier, Calif., are so certain that you will be elected President of these United States that they have already started to build the log cabin you were born in.'

"Mr. Nixon (not catching on in his mimical fashion) 'Well, I never count my elections until I have won them and that is why I have never lost an election.'

"Being a Kennedy rooter, I did not refrain from writing Mr. Brinkley, asking him to tell the people of Whittier to hold off ordering the syrup until after the result of the election.

"To which Mr. Brinkley replied: 'It may, indeed, have been a mistake to inject even a small touch of humor, because Mr. Nixon is not particularly noted for his wit. But it seems to be a terribly humorless campaign so far, and I think an occasional light touch is called for.'

"What do you think? I think Mr. Brinkley's humor is precious but he obviously was not following the John F. Kennedy speeches where humor and wit are abundant.

"I think humor—good, clean wit—is a stopgap for boredom and a vote getter, even in a presidential election."

Both sides having now been heard in rebuttal, the argument will be considered closed.

But President Kennedy goes right on poking fun, in his own way. When he spoke to the National Industrial Conference Board of big businessmen here the other day he observed: "It would be premature to seek your support in the next election, and inaccurate to express thanks for your support in the last."



THE DOCTOR SAYS . . .

Remaining Active In Retirement Pays

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

I used to feel very sorry for the many men who dreaded retirement. And for their wives who wondered what they'd do when they found themselves with "twice as much husband and half the income."

Here are a few stories which tell why my attitude changed: I have a neighbor, an elderly carpenter who had been in "mollies" for the past several years. He loves wood. He handles a piece of good wood the way a concert violinist handles a Stradivarius. He strokes it after it has been planed the way you would pat the hand of a cherubic youngster.

Ever since his retirement, he has been leaving home just as punctually as ever, walks to a shop maintained by townfolks for vocational training of the mentally retarded. There he spends his day teaching by example the skills necessary for turning out modest articles that can be sold for the benefit of the shop and the individual worker.

At day's end, he returns home with no more money in his pocket

et than when he set out, but a much richer man in spirit.

Except that she reads to the blind, another of our neighbors, a retired business woman, invests her retirement time with similar satisfactions.

The third of this small group is chair-ridden. Because she had little formal education, she had more or less persuaded herself that "good literature" was beyond her grasp. So she wasted her days and nights staring at soap operas, gun battles and rassing matches.

With some urging, she was persuaded to make the reading acquaintance of some of the famous characters of literature. Soon she made friends with Huck Finn's Aunt Polly, David Copperfield's Peggotty and Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch. Now, she has promoted herself to following the career of Scarlett O'Hara.

She keeps apologizing for her slow progress. "But," she says, "no matter how long it seems to take, I get to the end too soon."

Need I add that none of these neighbors appears in need of psychiatric guidance or treatment? None faces the long hours of the day and night with dread or apprehension.

Thoughts

If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin.—John 15:22.

The depreciation of Christianity by indifference is a more insidious and less curable evil than infidelity itself.—Bishop Whately.

For thou, O Lord, art my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.—Psalms 71:5.

Reverence is the very first element of religion; it cannot but be felt by everyone who has right views of the divine greatness and holiness, and of his own character in the sight of God.—Charles Simmons.

Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail.—Jeremiah 7:8.

Wisdom and truth, the offspring of the sky, are immortal; while cunning and deception, the meteors of the earth, after glittering for a moment, must pass away.—Robert Hall.

Many seek the favor of a ruler, but from the Lord a man gets justice.—Proverbs 29:26.

God wishes to exhaust all means of kindness before His hand takes hold on justice.—Henry Ward Beecher.

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

Almanac

By United Press International
Today is Tuesday, March 7, the 66th day of the year with 299 more in 1961.

The moon is approaching its last quarter.

The morning stars are Jupiter and Saturn.

The evening stars are Mars and Venus.

On this day in history:

In 1847, American horticulturist Luther Burbank was born.

In 1875, Maurice Ravel, famed French composer, was born.

In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received a patent for his invention of the telephone.

In 1936, Adolf Hitler ordered his troops to march into the Rhineland, thus breaking the Treaty of Versailles and the Locarno Pact.

In 1950, in a mad dash to safety, the British liner Queen Elizabeth arrived in New York harbor, safe from Nazi submarine and air attacks.

Thought for today: Norman Douglas said: "Many a man who thinks he found a home discoverer that he has merely opened a tavern for his friends."

BARBS

Why don't people stop to think that there's never any happiness in disliking anybody?

Some apartment janitors are so stingy with the heat the tenants are burning up.

A Kansas bride was taken ill right after she cooked her first meal. Maybe she baked her cake and ate it too.

An optimist is a person who is foolish enough to lend money to relatives.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—What new material is revolutionizing the adhesive industry?
A—Epoxy resins.

Q—When will Halley's Comet reappear?
A—In 1986.

Late Actor

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| ACROSS | 7 Qualified |
| 1,6 Popular late actor | 8 Honey makers |
| 11 Neow | 9 Scottish misa |
| 13 Several of his films have been | 10 Feminine suffix |
| ed on television | 12 Waste material |
| 14 One who gets up | 13 Swift |
| 15 Certify | 14 Miss West |
| 16 Depression bureau (ab.) | 20 Tax |
| 17 Splendor | 21 Arm, for instance |
| 18 Mariner's direction | 22 Restowed approval |
| 20 Attacks | 23 Assist |
| 22 Mortar trays | 24 Alder (var.) |
| 26 Dress | 25 Plunge into water |
| 30 Feminine appellation | 27 Japanese outcasts |
| 32 Liturgical headress | 28 Cape |
| 33 Even | 29 Large plant |
| 34 Indifferent | 31 Fish sauce |
| 35 Gifts | |
| 39 Essential being | |
| 40 Perfumed | |
| 42 Hypothetical structural units | |
| 45 He was one of film's sordid— | |
| 46 Aldorf is his capital | |
| 49 He had great acting— | |
| 52 Grated | |
| 54 Roman magistrates | |
| 55 Landed property | |
| 56 Send in payment | |
| 57 Comfort | |
| DOWN | |
| 1 Bird crop | |
| 2 Sweet secretion | |
| 3 Continent | |
| 4 Legal point | |
| 5 Retains | |
| 6 Obtain | |

