

Herald and News

Editorial Page

Better - But Not Good Enough

If you talk to some political analysts, they will tell you that one of the big things about the American electorate today is that it is so much better educated than used to be the case a few decades back.

Everyone knows that a bigger share of U. S. young people finish high school and go on to college—and that this constitutes a rising trend. Television, for all its foolishness, is seen as an important educative factor generally.

Yet these acknowledged advances can be misleading. For there are still 58 million Americans who have not finished high school. And, as the National Education Association observers in a study of undereducated adults, even high school graduates are losing jobs to machines.

A worse statistic, some 11 million persons 18 or over are "functional" illiterates who can't really learn marketable skills because they can't read and write as well as average fifth graders.

Admirably, 450,000 men and women are completing their elementary or high school work in adult public school classes. More

than 930,000 others take business, trade, industrial and technical courses.

The fact, however, is that these figures together represent a bit more than 2 per cent of the undereducated 58 million.

Thirty years ago, educator Robert M. Hutchins was the center of a controversy over whether people could be prepared best for life by pumping them full of information or by schooling them in fundamental ideas they could apply to any practical situation. Hutchins favored the "idea" approach. But it was only a question of emphasis, since ideas can hardly exist apart from the great body of knowledge.

The point today would seem to be how many millions of Americans still lack the thinnest underpinning of knowledge, and the tools for its use. Without solid substance here, how can they hope to develop truly useful ideas?

Until these millions—nearly a third of our population—somehow acquire a better grounding in the fundamentals of education, they will be sorely limited in their efforts to be good parents, good workers and good citizens.

Uncrowded Colleges

(Milwaukee Journal)

Tremendous sums, public and private, are being spent on college expansion to keep up with mounting enrollments. Even so, it is freely predicted that there will not be room for all. One hears all sorts of stories about this or that bright youngster who had to apply to any number of colleges before being accepted.

Yet four-year accredited colleges have room for at least 57,000 more freshmen in January, according to the Kiplinger magazine, Changing Times. The magazine's survey had revealed 41,000 freshman vacancies in the fall semester.

So if a qualified applicant tries hard enough he can find an accredited four-year

college that will accept him. The best chances are for commuting students at large urban universities. For example, the University of Denver could have accepted 150 more day students this fall, says the magazine.

Such vacancy figures are interesting but hardly significant except to a really desperate student or one who happens to find one of these uncrowded institutions convenient and to his liking.

The necessity for rapid expansion of higher educational facilities generally and for maintaining the highest standards is too evident to challenge. Yet there will be growing necessity, too, for many young people to be satisfied with whatever suitable college opportunities are available.

Left-Overs That Grow?

(Ledger-Star, Norfolk, Va.)

A firm in Washington (a "think company" is the description used by the Insider's News Letter), is working on something called "self-regenerating" food.

The immediate pressure for the product is the nourishment of space men on long trips, but it is pointed out that success would also solve the world's food problem.

What the researchers are trying to do

is to create an edible tissue that would grow back after part of it was consumed. A space traveler, according to the explanation, would eat up all but a small portion of his "steak," put the left-over piece into a special culture and it would grow back to a full-size steak.

Sounds like a fine idea. But let's not confine this promising investigation to food. How about looking into the same kind of possibilities elsewhere?

Say, in self-regenerating children's shoes?

THESE DAYS . . .

British Liberal Speaks Up

By JOHN CHAMBERLAIN

Floating around the eastern part of the United States these days is a tall, attractive Englishman named Joseph—or Jo (with-out an "E" on the end of it)—Grimond. He is the leader of the British Liberal Party, which is making something of a comeback in its home isle after long years spent in the wilderness.

Grimond appeared at Yale University last week as a Chubb Fellow, thus joining ex-President Truman, ex-Ambassador General Herbert Brownell, and Senator Barry Goldwater in a list of luminaries who have been reckoned sufficiently important to be invited to spend several days talking to undergraduates about the great world of politics. This week Grimond is scheduled to appear in Washington for a meeting with President Kennedy.

The English Liberal leader had much to say to the Yale boys about the desirability of British participation in the European Common Market. But what interested me particularly about his conversation was his analysis of social forces which points to the possible decline and breakup of the Labor Party in England. The same forces are at work today in America, eroding the power base that once threatened to put Washington, D.C., under the control of industrial unions whose leadership has a sacred little for the perpetuation of a freely competitive economic system.

In Britain, the evangelist fervor of the middle 1940s seems to have gone out of the Labor Party. The party intellectuals, headed by Hugh Gaitskell, do not speak the language of the trade union wing. As the lure of nationalized industries loses its glitter, no longer serving as an issue to bind trade unionists and intellectuals, a middle class "swing vote" has deserted Labor for the Conservatives.

But if Grimond is right, this swing vote cannot really feel at home in the Conservative Party of dukes and landed gentry and believers in the old-style British imperial mission. Grimond makes the point that his Liberal Party stands for the right to own property. But he speaks for a new order of propertied people, the young technicians of industry who own somewhat Americanized homes complete with refrigerators, washing machines, television sets and at least one car standing outside at the curb. Grimond is making his appeal to members of the newly affluent classes who wish to see British industry delivered from the toils of government bureaucracy on the one hand, and the old system of cartelized monopoly on the other. He spoke last week of efforts to spread the ownership of voting stock in British corporations, possibly by giving tax concessions to businesses which sell shares on a preferential basis to their own employees.

If the Conservative Party fails to hold the young defectors from the Gaitskell wing of the Labor Party, the Liberal Party might suddenly re-emerge as the second party in British politics. At the very least it may aspire to become a balance-of-power group with sufficient representation in Parliament to force significant compromises on both the Conservative majority and the "loyal opposition" as symbolized by Labor's Hugh Gaitskell.

The revitalization of British liberalism, which is something quite distinct from the collectivist liberalism of those Americans who would be called socialists if they lived in England, is part of a world phenomenon. On the continent of Europe this phenomenon has resulted in the decline of the old Marxist parties. In Germany the new realignment of forces has compelled the old Social Democratic Party to repudiate

Mary's insistence on government ownership of the means of production.

In the United States the emergence of young families with a property stake in society that is far more widely diffused than was the case in the 1920s is making trouble for Republicans and Democrats alike. The young, whose parents were Rooseveltians, do not feel comfortable under the Republican label. But they do not want to be run by a coalition consisting of Walter Reuther and the left-wing farmers union. So they back and fill, electing Eisenhower at one time, and defeating Richard Nixon by a hair's breadth at another.

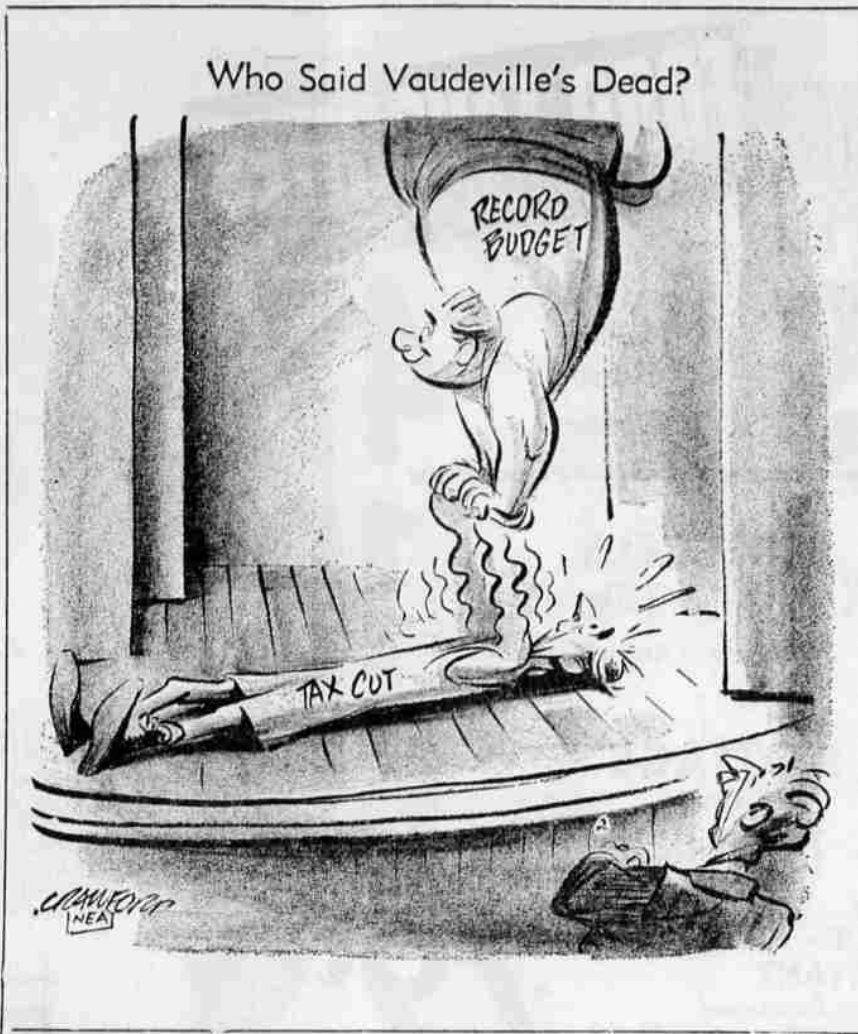
Maybe, if Grimond stresses the portent to President Kennedy of the Liberal Party as related to the English scene, he will, by force of the unspoken analogy, point the way to a presidential re-consideration of the Democratic Party's power base.

Almanac

By United Press International
Today is Thursday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 1963 with 346 to follow. The moon is in its last quarter. The morning stars are Venus and Mars.

The evening stars are Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.
Those born on this day include the American inventor, state man and author, Benjamin Franklin, in 1706.

On this day in history:
In 1806, a birth occurred in the White House for the first time when Thomas Jefferson's daughter, Martha Jefferson Randolph, gave birth to a son.
In 1915, the United States bought the Virgin Islands from Denmark for \$25 million.
In 1944, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower assumed command of the Allied liberation forces of World War II.



IN WASHINGTON . . .

Halleck Not Threatened



By RALPH DE TOLEDANO
Though Rep. Charles Halleck (Ind.) has been the best House Republican leader in many years, he is the first target of criticism when things go wrong. These attacks are due in part to wrong information from those who cover Capitol Hill, in part to politically-motivated misinterpretation of events.

Cases in point are (1) the defection of 28 Republicans to the

Administration in the battle over a packed Rules Committee, and (2) the thoroughly misnamed "revolt of the Young Turks" over House Republican leadership.

The first point demonstrates the difficulties under which Minority Leader Halleck operates. It was the firm policy of the House GOP to fight President Kennedy's packing plan for the Rules Committee. Two weeks ago, it seemed certain that the Republicans would hand Mr. Kennedy his

first defeat of the session by voting solidly for a 12-member Rules Committee. But in that time, Congressmen who take their lead from Gov. Nelson Rockefeller began to organize against Mr. Halleck. The 28 GOP members who gave the Administration its victory spoke in Governor Rockefeller's "don't-call-me-a-Republican" voice—and they can be counted on to weaken Mr. Halleck's legislative hand in the months to come.

The so-called "revolt" of younger Republicans is being widely interpreted as a repudiation of Minority Leader Halleck and a sign that the GOP is swinging to the left. Nothing could be further from the truth. The group that organized Rep. Gerald Ford's election as chairman of the House Republican Conference has no quarrel with Mr. Halleck's policies. Mr. Ford (Mich.) has one of the strongest conservative records in the House.

Rep. Melvin Laird (Wis.) who worked closely with the supposed "Young Turks," is perhaps the most brilliant and most articulate of the sound conservative thinkers in the House of Representatives. He has repeatedly demonstrated his effectiveness in support of Halleck policies and maneuvers. Mr. Laird is a man to watch, and his recent book, "A House Divided," is an eloquent and significant discussion of American foreign policy.

This does not mean that Mr. Halleck was not upset by the sudden emergence of a coal-esced force within the Republican leadership. But it is not telling tales out of school to report that in the private sessions of the young group the clearly-stated aim was to strengthen (not weaken) Mr. Halleck as he moves to implement Republican objectives. It is not gossip to add that other Republican leaders saw the so-called "revolt" in organizational, rather than ideological, terms. By and large, they were pleased.

Unless Mr. Halleck allows the chorales of Capitol Hill pundits to color his thinking, he will benefit by the changes made shortly before Congress convened. If only because the new sub-leaders are not subject to Rockefeller pressure or subservient to a Rockefeller philosophy, Minority Leader Halleck will come out ahead. His greatest problem has been to hold in line a group of undisciplined legislators from Atlantic seaboard states who worry more about "insage" than about principle.

Perhaps the greatest beneficiary of the shift in leadership emphasis will be the House Republican Policy Committee. Since early 1960, this committee has been doing yeoman work in studying and clarifying the issues. It has called on the top academic minds of the country to offer their views. Under the new dispensation, it can be more effective in really forming GOP policy.

One thing is clear. The popularly held view that the "revolt" is prelude to a scramble for Mr. Halleck's job and a fragmentation of the Republican minority in the House is not indicated. Younger men will have more to say—but youth is not synonymous with lethargy. Any way you look at it, it is impossible in some instances to differentiate the "Young Turks" from the equally misnamed "Old Guard."

FLETCHER KNEBEL



By SYDNEY J. HARRIS
Purely Personal Prejudices: The worst companion in any venture is an incompetent enthusiast; for every one person in whom enthusiasm is a virtue, there are a dozen in whom it is simply a substitute for knowledge.

The same quality that attracts us to a mate is often the very quality that eventually repels us: a woman marries a man because she thinks he is dominating and then learns he is merely domineering; a man marries a woman because she is fluffy and then learns she is merely pulpy.

It is a vast over-simplification to suggest that poverty "creates" crime; what would be truer to say is that the man with the least to lose is most likely to take the greatest risks, in any direction. It is so-called "respectability," rather than honesty, that keeps the bulk of people from taking to illegal pursuits.

Just as standing waters become poisonous, so a mind that does not change and flow freely becomes noxious from its own stagnant ideas; propaganda from the outside does not poison minds nearly so much as their own lack of activity.

The last paradox that man can grasp was expressed by Proust, when he said: "The universe is true for all of us and different for each of us."

All of us are believers in free will when we are successful, and believers in determinism when we fail; success makes us over-estimate our own powers, and failure makes us over-estimate the blind forces of fate.

Speaking of success and failure, isn't it this polarity which determines whether we refer to someone as a "slight acquaintance" or an "old school friend"?

The utility of giving advice was perceived by George MacDonald, with his usual pungent brevity, when he wrote: "When people seek advice, it is too often in the hope of finding the adviser safe with their second familiar self instead of their awful first self of which they know so little."

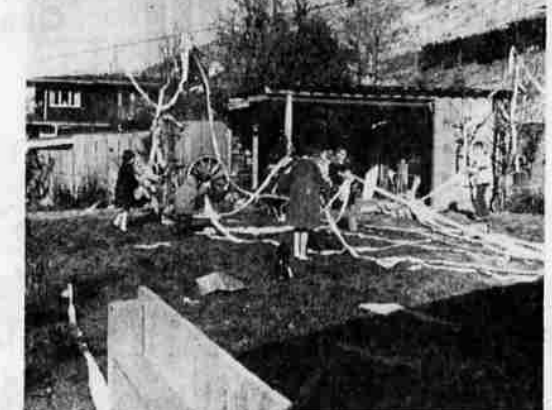
Impatient romantics should



J. D. Torquemada & Co. Strike again . . .!



It is regrettable that it is impossible to portray in these black and white photographs the superb art forms that graced the writer's lawn following the midnight visit of JD & Co. Let it suffice to say that the graceful forms were pieced from delightful pastel shades of tissue in lavenders, pinks, yellows and blues. No cheap white stuff was used, and this beneficiary (the writer) is filled with humility at contemplation of this singular honor.



Well, anyway, the kids in the neighborhood had a lot fun undoing the JD masterpiece.



NOTHING SPECIAL

(W. B. S.)

The accompanying art work today (above) illustrates, briefly, and for the benefit of those unfortunate souls who do not live in Klamath Falls, the work of art of one or more of the city's more prolific artists. It happens to grace the back yard of the writer as of last Sunday morning. Believe me, dear reader, it is a real eye-opener to get up about six a.m., reach for the paper and behold a dazzling display—part of which you see here—in your yard. As you will note, J.D. & Co. are not the fearful type. They came right up on the patio and back steps to complete their artistry. And, to cap the audacity, my midnight callers left the following note, addressed to this corner:

Dear Sir: You have just been visited by a missive (and I use the term advisedly, poetic license, etc.) of great esteem. As you probably know and will see by the thoroughness of the job—pardon me—artistic endeavor, this has been planned for some time. We hope that you will not be led to the heights of conceit by this token of fealty, but will continue to publish the same superlative paper you have in the past. May I insert here a plea for the continued use of white paper and black ink?

Once again we thank you for the service you have rendered to S.P.Q.K.F. Yours, J. D. Torquemada & Friend For Desecrations, Ltd.

Well, I had been fearful that our present-day youth were not up to overcoming hazards, and inclined to be lazy and indifferent to some extent. However, this expedition proves that there is a well of resourcefulness that has not entirely run dry. Perhaps some of those homes higher on the hill can expect some proper art work now that J. D. & Co. have come up with a way of festooning property other than trees. Good luck to all!

It might be apropos to insert here a bit of Langfellow, who said: The heights by great men reached and kept Were not attained by sudden flight. I'm often reminded of the observation of Cervantes who allowed that everyone is as God made him, and oftentimes a good deal worse.

Right about now would be a good time for someone to suggest that the City of Klamath Falls should annex the surrounding suburban areas.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—Which is the only crime clearly defined in the U.S. Constitution?

A—Treason.