

Herald and News

# Editorial Page

## The Love Of Learning

The concern is legitimate over whether this country is going to have enough school buildings and teachers to handle the rush of young Americans who will be seeking education at all levels in the decade ahead.

Yet it would be unwise to conclude that if by some miracle we should meet these requirements we would have no other major educational worries.

We must have youngsters who want to learn. The forecast of 7.5 million school dropouts for the next decade is strong evidence that the urge to learn is not as deepset as it ought to be.

Francis Keppel, the new U. S. Commissioner of Education, looks to society in general and to the home in particular to provide an atmosphere encouraging to the acquisition of learning.

The best teachers and the best buildings in the world will not help too much unless U.S. children come to school fortified by their parents with a love and respect for learning and a powerful desire to acquire it.

"You can't buy a climate of thought of the sort that is fundamental to the needs of our 10 and 15-year-olds," says Keppel as he plunges into his new job.

Entire schools can be weakened as institutions if they happen to be populated largely by students who are indifferent to learning and have no understanding of its importance. This fact explains in part why many

southerners protest the racial desegregation of schools, since many Negro students have not had the chance at home to discover what learning is all about.

On the other hand, one southern governor has said privately that this situation constitutes evidence that separate school facilities for Negroes can seldom in fact be "equal." This amounts to saying that a good education can only be had where the great majority of the students want one and will work to get it.

As indicated, however, Commissioner Keppel thinks society as well as the individual family must have a proper interest in knowledge and its dissemination.

A society that does not care about learning, is even perhaps suspicious of it or hostile toward it, will find its attitudes reflected first in the family and then in the offspring sent off to school.

There are plenty of signs, current and historical, that this country does not always respect the learning process as much as it might. We are often distracted by what some call the "practical" aspects of living—as if a genuine education somehow were not practical.

But what we need to hear from Keppel, from other educators, from the nation's leaders, is how we can build our youngsters a better atmosphere of thought in a world dazzled by its material attractions on the one hand and stifled by destructive poverty and ignorance on the other.

## Zoning Is Protective

(Eugene Register - Guard)

Down in Klamath County, where land use regulations (zoning) are being proposed — and vociferously opposed — the Herald and News has found it necessary to explain the difference between zoning and urban renewal.

It seems that some Klamath residents have had the erroneous notion that the City of Springfield recently voted to throw out its zoning ordinance. Others have thought that zoning and urban renewal are one and the same. And still others have believed that zoning would dictate even the types of building materials which would have to be used in local construction.

The Herald and News deserves praise for attempting to explain, without arousing needless new emotions, that urban renewal is distinguished from zoning in the same way that preventive medicine is distinguished

from radical surgery. Good zoning laws cannot assure perfection in community growth entirely by themselves. Sometimes, despite diligent zoning efforts, cancerous areas do develop and must then be removed by drastic means — demolition and rebuilding. But, where zoning is instituted soon enough and employed with proper concern for both private and general public interests, the probable need for either privately financed or government-instituted urban renewal can be considerably reduced.

This is essentially the point the Register-Guard and other newspapers have been trying to make in supporting proposals for zoning coastal areas of Lane, Douglas and Coos counties. The only real difference is that if these coastal areas are allowed to become blighted because land uses have not been regulated within them, there can be no effective renewing of their lost beauty, their magnificent natural splendor.

## THESE DAYS . . .

# Deflation Period Coming

By JOHN CHAMBERLAIN

It used to be axiomatic that after every big war there must come a period of deflation, when prices are put through the wringer. But for almost 20 years the demands of the cold war have served to obscure this fundamental truth as it applies to the aftermath of World War II.

Now, however, as Congress meets to face up to some necessarily painful decisions, the long overdue reckoning seems about to present itself. This means perplexity and trouble to an administration which must have superlatively good times if it is to finance its commitment to increased welfare expenditures. All the traditional post-war birds of ill omen seem at long last to be coming home to roost.

The result can hardly be an era of good feeling. For periods

of falling prices and an intensified struggle for work markets always seem to abound in agony. During the long post-Napoleonic decades in Britain the pioneer socialists bemoaned the effect of new textile mill automation on jobs, and English farmers fought bitterly against proposals to repeal the tariff on imported wheat. The period culminated in the strikes and demonstrations of the "hungry 40s," when Friedrich Engels, Karl Marx's collaborator, predicted, mistakenly as it turned out, that the "workers, the great majority of the nation, will not endure it." What Engels did not see was that even in the 40s more workers were making more money in spite of hard times.

The ugly manifestations of deflation appeared in the post-Civil War United States when, during the long period between the panic of 1873 and the coming of the McKinley boom in the late 90s, farmers and working men seemed to be calling for Red Revolution. In 1877, railroad employees, protesting wage cuts, burned railroad yard equipment. There were the cries against the new "trusts" in oil and sugar. Business fought hungrily for higher tariffs; the farmers organized to battle the railroads in states which lacked a water-borne alternative to rail transport; and practically every session of Congress witnessed the drive of free silver advocates as they strove to "expand" the currency by pressing for unlimited treasury purchase of a metal that was becoming far more plentiful than gold.

The fact that falling prices and increased factory automation provoke food riots, however, usually cloaks a mysterious advance in the general well-being. Though it is not felt immediately, people are better off. Real wages, as opposed to inflationary wages, rise every time a retail price drops by a few pennies. And when the shouting of the Jeremiahs is over, it is generally found that a "deflated" nation has advanced to

new grounds of productivity and prosperity.

It certainly happened that way in the late 19th Century in America. The proof of the pudding is to be found in the statistics. During the 1853-1895 interval there was an average yearly increase of 1.27 per cent in wage rates reckoned in terms of what could be bought with an hour's wages.

Thus, during the 40-year span that included the great post-Civil War deflation, labor made a very ponderable advance in the purchasing power of its wages. During the supposedly "good times" of 1896-1916, on the other hand, the annual rise in real wages fell off to a meager .55 per cent average.

To people who hold on to their jobs, then, deflationary periods are, paradoxically, the times most productive of advancing comfort and well-being. But, though job-holders always constitute the vast majority of the work-willing population even when prices are falling, nobody ever organizes a pressure group to defend their stake in better real wages. The inefficient marginal groups that are hurt by falling prices get all the attention, for they are always making the loudest noise.

If rationality were to govern in politics, which it admittedly seldom does, the answer of Congress to the threatened onset of a deflationary epoch would be to take economist Arthur Burns' advice and concentrate on the one tactic or providing for increased unemployment insurance coverage. If relief were to be funnelled into this narrow but effective area, the larger spending schemes could be cancelled or at least postponed. Meanwhile, with the budget balanced at a lower level of government spending, the great job-holding majority would benefit from the deflation of prices. And industry, forced to provide for dividends out of cost-cutting ingenuity, would emerge a disciplined source of "more goods for less money" for the population as a whole.

## The Just And The Unjust

(From The Wall Street Journal)

We guess we don't run in the right social circles.

For years we have been reading those books about wild living in the suburbs and wondering somewhat plaintively why the excitement seems to pass us by. In years of suburban living the wildest shock to the even tenor of our domesticity was the day the dog drank up the cocktails and bit the mayor. It was weeks before we were forgiven.

For almost as long, we've been reading about all this notorious highliving on the expense account, boats and all that, and groaning over what we seem to have missed. After a quarter-century in that den of iniquity, Wall Street, no one has tempted our journalistic virtue with even so much as a night at a hunting lodge, much less a sea-going voyage. Where, indeed, are all those expense-account yachts?

True, we aren't without sin, as defined in the new dogma of the Internal Revenue Service. We suffer business luncheons dreadfully often and when we turn in the voucher we don't deduct the \$1.25 we would have spent anyway for the Blue Plate special. A man is entitled to some recompense for punishment in line of duty.

When business takes us to Peoria or Dubuque, as it does all too often, we take an aperitif before dinner, choose the steak over the chicken-a-la-king and sometimes spurge on the movies, charging the lot to the stockholders. If it weren't for their business we wouldn't be there at all, and frankly we have better steaks at home.

Moreover, the children being more or less at the age of discretion, we have lately taken our wife along on some trips. We haven't persuaded the curmudgeonly auditor to okay her expenses, but not long ago we drove to Washington on legitimate business (if talking to a Senator is legitimate) and our wife rode along in the car. Even that baleful auditor didn't ask us to reimburse the company for the equivalent price of her bus ticket.

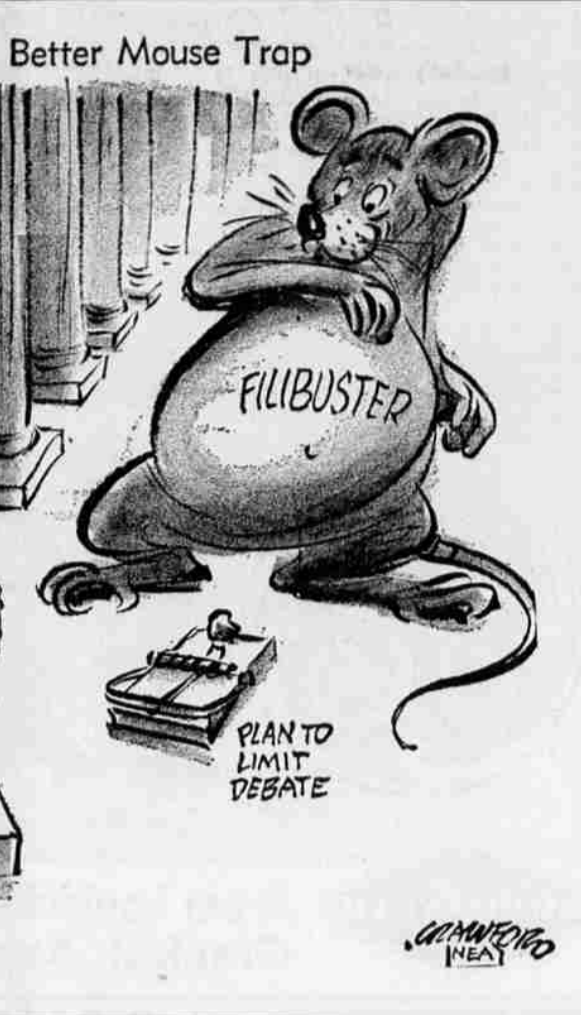
Give or take a few details, this is not unlike the situation of thousands of businessmen in a country where men at work are ceaselessly traveling to and fro. The door-to-door salesman and the flying corporate executive are brothers under the skin; they are working also when they pass the time of day with the lady at the door or the business acquaintance across the luncheon table. Sometimes the smartest business is not to talk "business" at all but to be friendly, interested; to listen and to learn. Only ignorant and petty minds could imagine that the "free" lunch is all beer and skittles.

But now it turns out that all

## THEY SAY . . .

The fact is, many people live through their whole lives in comparative happiness and productivity . . . and never really think at all. —Dr. Francis A. Carter, authority on communications, saying we should stop worrying, start thinking constructively.

Although love is one of the greatest emotions of life, it is unquestionable that the emotion of labor and creative work is higher. —Dr. Mikhail Tsentsiper, in Moscow's "Young Communist" newspaper.



## STRICTLY PERSONAL

By SYDNEY J. HARRIS

I happened to overhear three women at a luncheon table next to mine discussing a childless couple they knew. One of the women wondered why the couple hadn't had children, and the second woman suggested that perhaps they couldn't.

"And maybe they don't want to," chimed in the third. "Don't assume that every couple wants children—some couples shouldn't have them, and are smart enough to know it."

Her comment (with which I fully agreed) reminded me of a passage in a Robert Louis Stevenson story, in which a doctor is congratulating himself and his wife that their marital state has not been "marred" by the presence of children.

Looking up the passage later, I found that this was what the husband said to his wife:

"I think of it more and more as the years go on, and with more and more gratitude toward the Powers that dispense such afflictions. Your health, my darling, my studious quiet, our little kitchen delicacies, how they would all have been sacrificed! And for what?"

"Children," he went on, "are the last word of human imperfection; health flees before their face. They cry, my dear; they

put vexatious questions; they demand to be fed, to be washed, to be educated; and then, when the time comes, they break our hearts, as I break this piece of sugar. A pair of professed egoists like you and me should avoid offspring like an infidelity."

How many other "professed egoists" are so candid and self-discerning? How many others of this type delude themselves that they want a child, when all they really want is the abstract idea of a child? How many have children because it seems the thing to do, but would be far happier without such encumbrances?

Many childless couples genuinely yearn for offspring and would be excellent parents; but just as many prefer their childless state, knowing—either consciously or unconsciously—that they lack the patience or the interest required for rearing a child properly.

The world is full of couples who should not have had children, who resent the obligations it imposes upon them, and who turn the resentment upon the children in obvious or subtle forms. How much more clean and honest to admit that two professed egoists have no room in their lives for another personality, and thus to spare themselves, the child and society from the damaging consequences of this twisted relationship.



## WASHINGTON REPORT . . .

### South Dakota Solon Active Left Fielder

By FULTON LEWIS JR.

Shortly before he was to take his oath of office last week as a U.S. Senator, South Dakota's George McGovern told a newspaper friend:

"Since the end of World War II, my overriding interest has been in exploring every avenue for the attainment of world peace."

Few of those who have followed McGovern on his path to the U.S. Senate disagree. They point out, however, that not a few of those "avenues" that he explored are little traveled.

There are few men in public life who have, for instance, advocated U.S. foreign aid to the Red Chinese. There are few who professed to "understand" Russian opposition to NATO. There are few who ridiculed U.S. efforts to secure free elections in eastern Europe, but McGovern did all three.

Nearly 15 years ago McGovern supported the Presidential candidacy of Henry Agard Wallace, whose Progressive Party was later shown by a Congressional Committee to be Communist-controlled.

In a letter to the Mitchell (S.D.) Daily Republic in 1948, McGovern wrote: "I take my hat off to this much smeared man who has had the fortitude to take his stand against those powerful forces of fear, militarism, nationalism and greed. I'm tired of listening to the thoughtless jeers and charges of 'crackpot' and 'Communist' being thrown his way."

In conclusion, McGovern asked that someone "take the time to point out to me those specific issues wherein Wallace departed from the Sermon on the Mount."

McGovern earned his Ph.D. at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. He returned to South Dakota to enter state politics. Taking control of a listless Democratic machine in 1953, McGovern demonstrated political acumen, so much so that three years later he won election to the U.S. House.

There McGovern put his brother-in-law, Lawrence Pennington, on the office payroll at \$8,663 a year despite the fact that Pennington was teaching at Dakota Wesleyan University back home.

Neither McGovern nor his new employe bothered to tell the university president that Professor Pennington was drawing a second pay check.

After 2½ months on the federal payroll, Pennington came east to McGovern's office. The Congressman had guaranteed a place for him by slashing the salaries of two other employes.

Brother-in-law Pennington was not the only relative to receive a little boost from Congressman McGovern, however. Brother Lawrence was hired as a Capitol cop at \$4,725 a year.

After two House terms, McGovern ran for the Senate in 1960, against the Republican incumbent, Karl Mundt, going down to defeat. A fervent backer of John Kennedy, the unemployed Congressman was hired as director of the Food for Peace Agency. In that job, McGovern kept one eye on foreign countries, one eye on South Dakota politics.

When Republican Sen. Francis Case, up for re-election in 1962, died early last year, McGovern flew home and opened a whirlwind campaign for his seat.

Poor Joe Bottum, the GOP nominee, never had a chance. While Bottum, the interim appointee, toiled in Washington, McGovern cross-crossed the state, gaining ground he never lost. With substantial labor aid, including some from the Teamsters of Jimmy Hoffa, McGovern squeaked to victory by fewer than 500 votes.

## POTOMAC FEVER

Barry Goldwater says he wants a year to decide whether to run for the White House. After all, it's a big job. There are an awful lot of clocks in that place to turn back.

They've put Moise Tshombe under curfew in the Congo. He's the first revolutionary in history to go on the eight-hour day.

The Comptroller General charges that millions have been wasted in aid to Korea. Congressional leaders are upset. That kind of money is supposed to be wasted at home.

Ode to the White House "background" news conference: We've learned from a fashionable source that the leak in Palm Beach wasn't Morse. Nor was the chief villain De Gaulle or Macmillan, but the man who feeds Caroline's horse.

Q—What's the difference between news and gossip? A—News is something bad that happens to you. Gossip is something bad that you wish would happen to you.

Republicans are striving for a more youthful look. Trouble is, it's hard to look vital and buoyant when your feet are killing you from all that marking time. FLETCHER KNEBEL

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Error

We live in a fast changing world, in which the inconceivable of one age becomes the commonplace of the next, but there are certain values that remain constant, like freedom, liberty and independence. These ideals we cling to and cherish, in our changing world. They are top values.

Our lives, like history, turn upon small hinges. Our day to day decisions about things that we shall allow to matter, will shape and mold our future; and this applies to suburban zoning, just as it does to the farm program and other controls in effect. The tighter control and zoning of our suburbs will cause hardship to some, and cause the surrender of certain freedoms by all of us affected.

Are we to continue to allow this era in which we live to become more and more an age of submissive easiness, permitting the growing of fitty tissues around our top values, allowing things that do matter to us to be decided by others?

It was quite erroneous at the beginning, by whoever was in authority, to so much as consider the laying on of these added controls, without a vote from the people concerned. Everett Dennis, Realtor

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Misguided

It is my considered opinion that favorable action on the present attempt to pass the so called zoning laws will only result in placing another weapon in the hands of the professional so-called "do gooders" whose only mission in life is to regulate the lives of the other half.

Surely the number of families which have moved to the various suburban areas and put up with all the minor inconveniences attached to living farther out in the country have expressed their desire for this type of personal privacy.

Now is the time to put a stop to this misguided effort of a few to impose their views on the majority.

H. D. Lindsey, 4346 Cleveland