

Herald and News

Editorial Page

The Tragedy Of Dropouts

A few years ago the word "drop-out" was probably meaningful only to teachers, school administrators and parents directly involved. Now it is talked of in discussions of the economy, of crime, of the whole future facing American youth.

The drop-out, of course, is the youngster who leaves school before graduation. In the present decade, it is figured there will be 7.5 million of these.

They will be throwing themselves, untrained, into a world wherein the unskilled may by 1970 make up no more than 5 per cent of the total U.S. work force.

With all the alarm felt over this prospect, there has been far too little digging into the background of known drop-outs to search for the causes of the problem. Now, however, we have some new facts from a Maryland study managed co-operatively by state, county and Baltimore city education departments.

First off, it blasts the idea that most drop-outs are delinquent children. Scanning nearly 14,000 who left high school in 1960-61, the questioners found that four out of five never were rated serious behavioral problems. Nearly as many never had been suspended.

The notion that most drop-outs are either the product of broken homes or are altogether homeless does not hold, either. Some 70 per cent of those studied lived with both parents. Another 10 per cent lived with one parent or the other.

Half the drop-outs had average to above average intelligence, which hardly makes the lack of it a dominant element in the story.

What did impress the Maryland testers was the generally low educational and aspirational level of drop-outs' parents. Some 80 per cent of the fathers and nearly as many mothers had themselves been drop-outs. And a high proportion showed very limited total schooling.

Thus, as some top educators have suggested in broad terms, it is not so much the broken home as the home with a poor atmosphere which is heavily at fault. In too many cases, no interest in getting an education—or in any kind of solid achievement—is implanted in the school youngsters.

The Maryland investigators found this showing up in another way. More than two-thirds of the drop-outs never took part in athletics or any sort of extracurricular activities. This was most noticeable in big schools where competition was sharpest.

Certainly lack of intelligence, of energy and drive, of such fundamental learning tools as reading skill, were important factors in numerous instances. But the drop-outs themselves told the key part of their story: lack of interest was the biggest cause.

More and more often, the matter of inadequate home setting—either inhospitable or indifferent to learning—crops up as we look at the country's educational needs.

Many say more and better education is vital to us. But how do you begin the process with the millions of children whose family way of life affords education no place or stature?

Perhaps this is the question to which concerned educators should today be addressing themselves, above all other matters.

Withholding—A Way Of Life

Bills have been introduced in Congress—not for the first time—that would either reduce or eliminate altogether the withholding of federal income taxes from people's paychecks.

Reasoning behind the bills is that it might awaken Joe Citizen to the fact that an awfully large slice of his earnings goes direct from his employer to Washington. Realizing this, he might demand some semblance of economy in government.

As it is now, the tax extraction is relatively painless. Though 18 per cent of a man's wages, beyond exempted amounts, is withheld, he never sees it; never having had it, he doesn't miss it. With the natural human capacity for rationalizing, our man doesn't let himself think that the money ever actually was his. He figures his pay only as what he takes home in his pocket.

Without withholding, he might be shocked back to reality come April 15 when he was required to forward a large bundle of dollars to Uncle Sam in one fell swoop.

That's the way it was in the old days before withholding, but taxes were lower then

and the yearly bill was not a great problem for most people.

Today, Joe Citizen has become anesthetized to taxes through withholding. Indeed, one of the objections to withholding when it was first proposed was that it would make tax increases too easy to pass. Subsequent history seems to have borne this out.

These antiwithholding bills won't get very far in Congress, of course. Withholding is part of our way of life now. Government is too tightly geared to this continuous income. And the days of low-budget, low-tax government are as vanished as the United States that once was an island isolated by two oceans.

Still, it would be interesting to see what would happen after one year without withholdings. Undoubtedly there would be a nationwide agonizing reappraisal.

Despite the fond hopes of the sponsors of these bills, however, the upshot probably would be not more economy in government and resulting lower taxes but a quick return to withholding.

Anyone want to bet?

Nothing Like A Good, Icy Bath!

By JOHN GOULD

(In the

Christian Science Monitor) Coincidence is always with us, and when strange things happen their happening is often stranger still. Such as the time Stet Plummer fell through the ice up in the uncharted wilderness of northern Maine; which came to mind this brisk morning when I heard one of our local skaters just took a dip in the drink. Local skaters do that everywhere, I suppose, and one by one they join that elite membership of reminiscent citizens who can turn any conversation around to the time they fell in. I've done it a couple of times, and I know.

When you crunch through the ice, or slip off the margin of the ice pond, there is a reluctance to believe what you have been taught. Everybody has been taught that water must be at 32 degrees-plus, F., it is ice. You learn this in school. So you skate around on the pond well aware that 32 degrees-minus is holding you up, and the water under the ice is warmer than that. Suddenly the ice cracks under you, and you find that the books and the schoolmasters have been wrong all the time, and that the true temperature of the water is 40 degrees-minus, or you're no judge at all. This is no longer a detached matter; you are close to it and an intimacy prevails which is convincing.

There is more than that. If you think pond water is cold while you are in it, you want to feel it leaving your delicate and personal skin after you have climbed out and are up in the nice breeze on the bank. The only thing to do, while you are meditating those flexible laws of physics, is gallop around and stir up enough body heat so the outside influences are dispelled, and

then always afterwards you can tell people what it was like.

What made Stet Plummer's falling in memorable was the coincidence. He and Eddie Maher had gone away up into the forests, far from anything, and on this particular morning had left their camp (or cottage) down on the Masardis road and had hiked back overland. They came to a stream, and Stet crossed it on the ice. Well, not quite—just before he reached the opposite shore the ice quit on him, and he popped in and closed the door after him. Eddie, standing on the bank to see if Stet would make it, now perceived that Stet had not. Then Stet popped up again, remarking to all and sundry that he didn't relish this a little bit, and threshed ashore on the far bank. Deleted of the chattering and shivering, Stet's statement upon catching his breath was, "I'll run for it—you go back and get a live going!"

Now, the geography is important. Eddie, on his side of the stream, was only about eight minutes away from the camp, and he could do it sooner at a dog-trot. But the river wended the other way, and for Stet it was a long lunge back to the highway, and when he got out there he would be about five miles from camp. But the circled path seemed, at the time, the best one, so Eddie started the short way to camp on his side, and Stet started the long way on his.

Stet could hear his feet thump the frozen ground as he picked them up and put them down, but there was no sensation inside his boots. He could hear the ice creaking on the collar of his jacket grating on the ice crusting the collar of his shirt, and it sounded like jungle bells. He clapped his hands together to learn if they were still inside his frozen mittens, but was as tinkling cymbals, or crockery falling downstairs. Of

course, as he went, things got better. He found himself wondering how he would know if he worked up a sweat, but it seemed to him he was. He got fairly warm as he jogged along, and he knew this was good. Presently he came out to the road.

Now, this isn't much of a road. It doesn't have much traffic. A lumber truck once or twice a day, maybe, and then hours of nothing. But as Stet bounded out of the woods into the right-of-way, he looked up and saw not only an automobile coming his way—but it was a taxicab such as you find in Manhattan. Stet held up a finger, the way you do in Manhattan, and the caddy wheeled in for a pick-up and said, "Where to, sir?"

Eddie, meantime, had laid some kindlings. He touched a match to them and stood up, and as he looked from the camp window he saw a taxicab pull up and Stet dismount. Stet paused to pay the driver, and came into the camp to find Eddie's mouth agape and a look of deep incredulity upon his face. "It's taken you long enough to start a fire," said Stet, and Eddie found nothing to answer. Except for coincidence, which must always be entertained, there is no explanation for all this.

The cab can be explained. The caddy's brother took a job cooking in a lumbercamp up above Masardis, and on his day off the brother drove the brother up. Why it had to be that day, and why the caddy was homeward bound past Ten Mile Stream just as Stet came bounding from the woods I do not know. But he was, and this makes Stet's story of his falling in better than most. Eddie says it's the only time a man ever fell in a Maine ice-bath and enjoyed the luxury of a ride home in a heated cab from New York City, and it probably is.



THE GLOBAL VIEW . . .

Red Giants' Quarrel Overshadows Berlin

By LEON DENNEN
Newspaper Enterprise Analyst

UNITED NATIONS (NEA)—Nikita Khrushchev managed to survive Stalin's purges and has so far outsmarted his rivals in the Kremlin. Now he faces the decision of his life: to break or not to break openly with Red China's Mao Tse-tung?

Even West Berlin, though it remains a top target of Soviet official policy, is eclipsed by the historic quarrel of the two Red giants.

A Yugoslav official told this writer, "It is not what Khrushchev says or does not say publicly that will decide the fate of world communism. It is the drama behind the scenes that will in the long run determine communism's future."

Yugoslavia's President Tito, Premier Khrushchev's new-found friend and Mao Tse-tung's bitter enemy, is reported to have urged the Soviet premier to break openly with Red China.

Even before the meeting of Russia's satellites at the East German party congress, Tito hinted that his international policies are based on the belief that a Russian-Chinese split would come "very soon."

In the view of Yugoslavia's president, the break between Moscow and Peking has been progressing far too slowly. In order to fit Yugoslav plans, the open rift must come more rapidly for two reasons:

1. Tito is anxious to isolate Red China. This will strengthen consid-

erably Yugoslavia's position in the Red bloc.

2. Tito fears that Premier Khrushchev might doublecross him again. The thought of an eventual deal between Moscow and Peking is something that gives the Yugoslav president nightmares.

After all, wasn't Tito himself denounced for years by Moscow as a "revisionist" until Khrushchev decided recently to use him as an ally in the fight against the "dogmatist" Mao?

The Khrushchev-Mao war of words has now degenerated to a point where the Soviet premier has to speak out strongly if he is to stay at the helm of international communism. But the Russians obviously want to keep open their lines of communication with Mao in the hope that their differences might somehow be patched up.

Khrushchev realizes that an open break with China will split world communism into hostile camps. China is likely to get the backing of an aggressive minority, including Albania, North Korea, North Viet Nam and possibly even Fidel Castro's Cuba, that would be embarrassingly vocal in its attacks on Russia.

This has long been the view of men like Mikhail Suslov and other "internal Chinese" (Vnutrennyia Kitaitzy) who still would wield considerable power in the Kremlin.

Moscow's East German puppet Walter Ulbricht, Czechoslovakia's Red Chief Antonin Novotny and Maurice Thorez, leader of the French Reds, are also believed to be against an open break be-

tween Russia and China, despite signs of hedging in the East German press.

But President Tito, backed by Palmiro Togliatti of the Italian Communist Party and Poland's Wladyslaw Gomułka, have been pressing Khrushchev for a speedy break with Mao.

This, in the view of specialists on Soviet-Chinese relations, accounts for Nikita Khrushchev's zig-zag policies.

Long before the Red conclave in East Berlin the Soviet premier and Mao denounced each other with all the curse words from the ample bag of Marxist-Leninist doubletalk. Many of Moscow's puppets even had public rehearsals (party congresses) at which they attacked Mao.

But Khrushchev remains in a dilemma. Like the maid in the English limerick, he cannot say yes to an open break with Mao and he cannot say no. So he says maybe and hopes to appease all antagonists in the Red camp by again twisting the West's tail in Berlin.

Almanac

By United Press International
Today is Sunday, Feb. 10, the 41st day of 1963 with 324 to follow.

The moon is approaching its last quarter.

The morning star is Venus.

The evening stars are Mars and Jupiter.

These born on this day are under the sign of Aquarius.

On this day in history:
In 1933, a new feature in telegraphic service was introduced, with the delivery of "singing telegrams."

In 1937, Chinese Communists offered to end their 10-year civil war with the regime of Chiang Kai-shek in favor of a "united front" against the Japanese invaders.

In 1942, the last civilian automobiles rolled off the assembly lines in Detroit, as the industry was converted for war production.

In 1960, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev started on a 12-thousand-mile tour of Southeast Asia.

A thought for the day—German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer said: "Every man takes the limits of his own field of vision for the limits of the world."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—What is "pork-barrel" legislation?

A—Bills enacted to provide appropriations for political purposes to a special group or region of the country.

Q—On the Centigrade scale what designates absolute zero?

A—A temperature 273 degrees below zero which is 459 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

Q—Why does Belgium have two official languages?

A—The Walloons speak a French dialect called Wallon. The Flemings, whose language is Flemish, is much like Dutch and German.

NOTHING SPECIAL
(W. B. S.)

Frequently, I am reminded of the words of Richard Rumbold, on the scaffold, in 1685. He said, at that desolate moment: I never could believe that Providence sent a few men into the world, ready booted and spurred to ride, and millions ready saddled and bridled to be ridden.

Well, I see where the Harlem Globetrotters are scheduled to make an appearance in our fair city. I only hope we don't have a repeat of last year's debacle when the team didn't show up. I saw the Trotters in Salem a week or so ago, and they have some able performers, but I don't think they measure up to the teams of previous years.

Looking at our telephone bills each month leads one to think that the U.S. must be about the talkiest (telephone-wise, that is) nation in the world. But not so, Canada once again has taken the "gabbiest nation" sweepstakes. Leading the world in phone calls for the 10th consecutive year, Canadians averaged 551 conversations for every man, woman and child in the Dominion. The 1962 edition of "The World's Telephones" published by AT&T, reports that the United States was close behind with 529 calls per person. Iceland was third with 487.

At the rate taxes are going up (and proposed) it will soon be quite impossible for a girl to marry for money.

At the Governor's Breakfast last week, Judge Boyd Leddom, the speaker, was emphasizing his point that there must be a God—else how could one explain the Universe. He cited an example to prove his point. One famed scientist has likened the possibility that the Universe "just happened" to this unlikely comparison: there is just as much chance that the Universe "just happened" to come into being as there would be for an unabridged International Webster's Dictionary re-

sulting from an explosion in a print shop.

An undeserved compliment is actually more pleasing than any other kind.

I suppose this is rather worthless information, but it is interesting to note the manner in which the Russian banking system is operated, and how it contrasts to our own banks. If you were a typical Russian and wished to have a bank account—as one out of every four Russians apparently does—you would have only one choice. You would go to one of the 75,000 branch offices of the State Savings Bank which is owned and operated by the Central Government. For the convenience of depositors (and possibly for the benefit of the Central Treasury) the branch offices are open all day and as late as eight or ten in the evening.

You would not think of opening a checking account because personal checks are virtually unknown in Russia. On your savings you would get three percent.

If you wished to borrow money from this same institution you would be almost certainly turned down. It does make a few installment loans on such things as radios, bicycles and furniture. Terms are 25 per cent down and the balance in 12 months. Repayment is assured by the existence of a payroll withholding system. It no longer makes mortgage loans on single family homes.

I wonder if there is a man living who, at one time or another, has not looked back on his life with some dismay.

The more one sees of the results of the Klamath Termination Act, the more regrettable it seems.

Some of these upswepht hairdos are mindful of something swept up off the floor.

Add silly claims of the U.S. Government: There's nothing going on in Cuba!



EDSON IN WASHINGTON . . . Fur Will Fly If Labor Law Revision Sought

By PETER EDSON
Washington Correspondent
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

WASHINGTON (NEA)—Though it is scarcely mentioned in President Kennedy's first three major messages to Congress, a lot of labor legislation might be stirred up in this session of Congress.

AFL-CIO President George Meany has in the past opposed opening up existing labor laws. He fears this would loose a Pandora's box of amendments which would only make a bad situation worse, ending with more troubles for unions.

The big organization's legislative counsel, former Wisconsin Congressman Andrew J. Biemiller, points out, however, that labor favors appeal of Landrum-Griffin Act restrictions on picketing and Taft-Hartley Section 14-B which permits the states to enact their own right-to-work laws.

Union legislative programs also favor expansion of minimum wage law coverage to more workers. And Biemiller believes first efforts may be made this year to obtain the 35-hour work week by law, as well as by collective bargaining.

One of the things labor may have most to fear in this session of Congress is that the major strikes of longshoremen, newspaper employees, aircraft and missile workers now idling over 100,000 men will result in the introduction of much new restrictive legislation.

Labor Secretary Willard Wirtz admits the administration is considering proposals which would permit the government to move into major disputes more rapidly and with more power to effect settlements in the public interest.

There have been no decisions announced yet on what the President might propose to Congress. One difficulty is that mediation procedures authorized by existing law have been used so much that they have been dulled and lost their effectiveness.

Job security, or loss of employment from automation, is one of the major issues in current disputes. Neither the unions nor management has yet come up with any satisfactory suggestions for laws that might ease the problem. Rep. Elmer J. Holland, D-Pa., of the House Labor Com-

mittee is planning an exhaustive investigation of the issue this session.

Organized labor leaders still back Kennedy's broad program on general principles, but they differ with him on details and execution. Union leaders are as dissatisfied with the President's State of the Union, budget and economic messages as are the organizations representing big business—though for completely different reasons.

Business spokesmen think the President goes too far. Labor spokesmen think he doesn't go far enough or fast enough.

AFL-CIO is for a \$9 billion tax cut in the lowest income brackets this year. The \$3 billion cut offered by the President is considered too small to do any good in reducing unemployment.

W. P. Gullander, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, opposes the President's proposal to split the lowest income tax bracket and asks for a go-slow policy on tax revision in the interests of sounder economic growth.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Ladd Plumley has announced a 10-point labor legislation program for his organization. It calls for putting unions under the antitrust laws, reform of the National Labor Relations Board, amendment of Walsh-Healy and Bacon-Davis acts, permitting the U.S. secretary of labor to set wage floors on government contracts, full state control of unemployment insurance and the U.S. Employment Service.

The Plumley program opposes changes in Taft-Hartley emergency strike provisions and limitation on state right-to-work laws. Expansion of minimum wage law coverage and equal pay for women also are opposed.

Sen. John L. McClellan, D-Ark., has reintroduced his bill to put transport unions under antitrust law control. Labor leaders claim it would affect other unions, too, and oppose it.

Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., has introduced a sweeping labor-management reform bill to curb union bargaining and political power which labor would fight on every detail, bringing on a long hard fight in an already overloaded Congress.

Switzerland

ACROSS: 1 Capital of Switzerland; 6 The — and Rhone originate in this country; 11 Mountain nymphs; 13 It is a — in watch manufacture; 14 Small finch; 15 Tax; 16 Conducted; 17 Salt is its — mineral; 19 Lock of hair (Scott.); 20 Injunction; 22 Feminine appellations; 23 Today for instance; 24 Mariner's direction; 25 Unaccompanied; 26 Evades; 31 Cheese; 33 Eye disease.

DOWN: 2 The sun; 3 Heredity unit; 4 — is one of its chief cities; 5 Tropical plant; 7 Stout tree; 8 Wash anew; 9 Star; 10 Stopped; 11 Unruffled; 12 Property dem; 13 Thickheaded; 1 Kind of weed; 2 Troopman; 3 Indian; 4 Tear sunder; 5 Feminine nicknames; 6 Dropsy; 7 Legal point; 8 Hurry; 9 Nation; 10 Arboreal home; 11 Gaelic; 12 Pair booth; 13 Woolly.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

18 Late Mrs. Cantor; 19 Horse's neck hairs; 21 Perfect (comb. form); 22 Scottish miss; 23 Bread spread; 24 Dangle; 26 Rim; 27 Laneous element; 28 Italian city; 29 Unbleached; 30 Impel; 34 Shifted; 35 View; 36 Sea eagles; 41 Rent; 42 Wrote down; 43 Alms box; 44 Sediment; 45 Palm leaf (pl.); 47 Muscat is its capital; 48 Eyots; 49 Leg joint; 51 Animal medicine (coll.); 55 American humorist.

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