

Herald and News

Editorial Page

Time For A Hard Look

Some observers of American life say we spend too much time in stock-taking and are too self-critical.

Certainly we all talk a lot. But mixed in with the criticism is plenty of shouting about the greatness of America. If the balance seems wrong, it could be that our pro-Americanism dwells less on our virtues than on the dangers and weaknesses of our enemies.

Even with all our self-scrutiny, it is not clear that we do a very good job of taking stock.

We know we have some bad flaws. Crime and corruption are rampant; we turn out too much careless, shoddy work; we have let our big cities fall, generally, into a curious crumbling chaos; we bury some of our knottiest problems—like education, health and unemployment—in a great avalanche of words.

Yet, while we acknowledge these as shortcomings, we do not consistently exhibit the kind of concern that leads to effective action. We have made the lack of caring almost a way of life. We have made the excuse of failure nearly a science.

In the matter of crime, for example, we can't get sufficiently aroused to halt the flow of deadly weapons into the hands of brutalized or emotionally disturbed persons—especially juveniles.

Often we call car stealing "borrowing" instead of what it is. In slums and fashionable suburbs alike, we concoct a staggering array of excuses to justify not punishing transgres-

sors. But a criminal law without penalties might as well invite its own violation.

Some suggest that American life today is increasingly like a great glacier, whose sheer size and weight forces a human conformity that deadens initiative, robs us of heroes and the example of high performance they can give us all.

Too many Americans in their public aspect lack dignity and a sense of responsibility of the sort befitting a proud people.

They park their cars badly, depriving others of space. They do not even accommodate graciously to the presence of other persons, but instead block stairs and doorways, monopolize a sidewalk, noisily dominate a room shared by many.

Clerks at magazine stands, in book and record stores shudder at the daily descent of some members of the "public," for they leave behind them a clutter of rumpled magazines, crinkled book pages, and scuffed records. They "use" but do not buy.

One would fill a book with the horror tales of work badly done, whether it be original repair or maintenance effort.

The "excusers" say it was always like this, that things only seem worse now because the absolute numbers involved are greater.

Some parts of history tend to support this notion. But history also shows that nations and civilizations do slip badly and sometimes fatally.

Are our shortcomings "normal" or are they marks of decline? There's a problem the critical stocktakers have hardly touched.

Another Intertie

(Oregon - Statesman)

Portland General Electric has stepped into the intertie situation with an offer to build a transmission line from its power plant at Round Butte on the Deschutes to Klamath Falls. There it would connect with Pacific Power & Light's network and a connection could be made with Pacific Gas & Electric for connection with its extensive system in California. The Portland-based company offers to lease to Bonneville Power Administration half the carrying capacity of the proposed 500-KV line for transmission of its surplus from the federal dams in the Columbia Basin. The charge would approximate the cost BPA would incur if it built a line. Some agency, public or private, would need to build a line from the Columbia River, presumably at the John Day power plant when completed to Round Butte.

This scheme looks as though it would let the Northwest "have its cake and eat it too." BPA and the Interior Department are anxious to build two federal transmission lines, one ending at Klamath Falls, the other at Los Angeles. It lacks authorization and money from Congress, and may not get it be-

cause of opposition to further spending on federal power installations. Also the Northwest, notably Washington, objects to an intertie unless its priority for use of the power is set in law. The prospect therefore of congressional authorization of federal lines is rather dim.

If private companies bought and transmitted the power and if the contract with BPA limited its transmission to "surplus" power then California public bodies could not effectively assert their claims under the general preference clause. We presume, at least, that this is the reasoning of the private utilities.

Portland General Electric offers this as a solution, and certainly it is a constructive approach to public-private cooperation. Presumably BPA will await action by Congress. The question arises, if Congress fails to approve and finance a federal intertie will government agencies clear the way (including rights-of-way on federal lands) for private company construction? Time is wasting, and so are the kilowatts rolling unharnessed down the Columbia.



EDSON IN WASHINGTON . . .

No Solution Forthcoming

By PETER EDSON
Washington Correspondent
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

WASHINGTON (NEA) — Complete confusion is about all that came out of a day-long discussion of economic growth before 200 of the nation's top business brains, assembled in Washington by the American Bankers Assn.

ABA wanted some fresh ideas on this subject and it got them. Three of the country's most brilliant young professors of economics were asked to present papers on the subject. They disagreed on practically everything. Gobbledygook hit the blowers and was spread knee-deep all over the place.

Paul W. McCracken, University of Michigan Graduate School of Business Administration, quoted that of 26 civilizations, 16 are dead, 9 have broken down and only 1 remains—ours. The historian's conclusion was that civilizations break down not from outside pressures but from disintegration within. McCracken then pointed to the signs.

The number of patents issued and applied for, relative to the size of the economy, is lower now than in the 1920s. The number of new business concerns initiated is half that of the 20s.

"Even the smaller incidence of failures may be deceptively comforting because this could merely indicate that the process of creative destruction has become more sluggish," the professor said.

the American consumer," he concluded.

Paul A. Samuelson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, crashed through with a 21-point program on what the country should do to achieve economic growth.

It was so long and detailed that he didn't have time to read it. But it is all in his text and it goes way beyond anything President Kennedy offers in the way of government aid to private business and social welfare.

Over-simplified, here are some Samuelson ideas: More public expenditure to reduce the risk of private investments. Permit assets to be depreciated on a base that is inflated with the price level. Change from a system of graduated income taxes to consumption and wealth taxes. Give temporary tax cuts to sluggish industries.

On monetary and fiscal policies, Samuelson's recommendations were so complex they defy simplification. He himself got all mixed up in them. His text read: "... American policy should be to alter the parity of the dollar but when asked about this later said, 'I would not favor devaluation.'"

At the end of his paper, Samuelson wrote this as his final apology: "I wish I could have come here and promised that balancing the budget, preserving monetary discipline, reducing government expenditures and busting the monopoly powers of labor unions would usher in an era of growth and prosperity with-

out inflation or tears. It was not my heart that kept me from doing so. It was my head and my fear of being in violation of the laws of fraud."

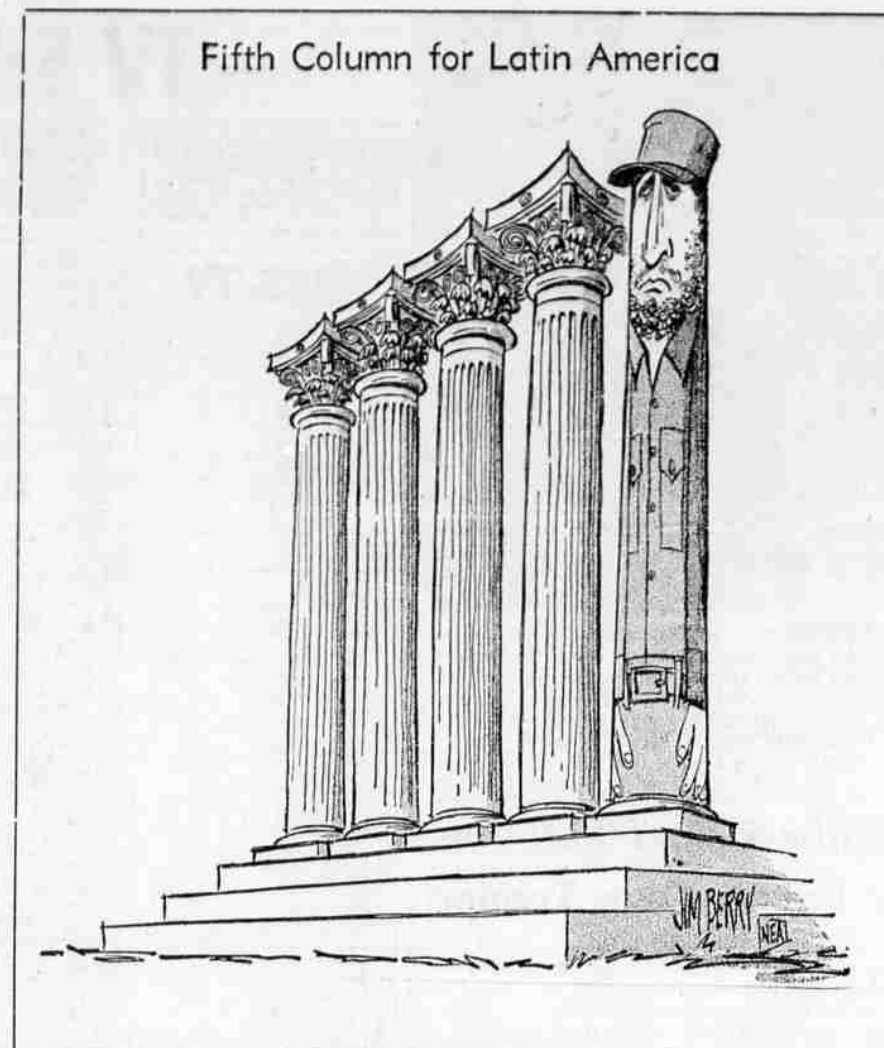
George W. Stigler, professor of American Institutions at University of Chicago and president-elect of the American Economic Assn., with rare sense of humor, took completely opposite views.

"I am not greatly concerned about the growth rate of the American economy," he admitted right at the start, "whether judged in terms of national survival, domestic happiness or international benevolence."

It was his view that science was vastly overrated and that the American supermarket has meant more to American economic progress than atomic energy. He doesn't fear head-on collisions between business and government regulation because regulation is ineffective when the industry doesn't wish to be regulated.

"I am suggesting," he said, "that an efficient economy requires discontented businessmen, outraged labor leaders and frustrated bureaucrats."

Stigler refused to present any list of recommendations to promote economic growth, but he made a prophecy on what might happen if a set of policies could be devised to raise output 10 per cent per capita for the future.



What Happened In Brussels

By JOHN ALLAN MAY

(In The Christian Science Monitor)
It is important to get straight what actually happened in Europe between the 14th and 29th of January, 1963. For what happened is likely to have implications of the most profound importance for years ahead.

On Jan. 14, President de Gaulle of France held a press conference in Paris. Here are extracts from what he said:

"The Treaty of Rome was concluded between six continental states . . . of the same nature. . . . Moreover they are adjacent, they interpenetrate, they prolong each other through their communications."

"To link them in such a way that what they have to produce, to buy, to sell, to consume, they do produce, buy, sell consume by preference among themselves is to conform to realities."

"How can we incorporate England, with her way of life, the nature of her production and her trade, into the Common Market?"

"The question is to know if Great Britain can at present place herself . . . within a tariff that is truly common, give up all preferences with regard to the Commonwealth, cease to claim her agriculture be privileged and, moreover, to consider as null and void the commitment she has made to (her EFTA partners) . . . Obviously Britain alone can answer."

"It must be agreed that the entry, first of Great Britain and then of other nations would completely change the whole system. . . . What would result is a very different Common Market . . . one of 11, and then of 13, and maybe of 18."

"In the end, it would appear as a colossal Atlantic Community, dependent upon and under the

direction of America, which would make short work of absorbing the European Community."

"This is a hypothesis that can very well be justified in some eyes, but it is not at all what France wants . . . which is a truly European structure."

On Jan. 17 in Brussels M. Maurice Couve de Murville, French Foreign Minister declared to the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community: "It seems to us difficult to continue the present course of discussions. After 15 months they are showing no signs of success. We turn in circles. The only problems we have solved are those which do not raise difficulties. Each time difficulties have existed, we could not come to a conclusion. That is the case for the problems of Commonwealth agricultural imports, British agriculture and British participation in EFTA. Thus the United Kingdom proves that it is not ready to enter the community. It is therefore quite useless to continue."

The other five members and the EEC commission protested. But on Jan. 18 the council decided that when it met again on Jan. 28 all it could discuss would be the French request to "adjourn" the negotiations.

On Jan. 29, without the British delegation having been asked to join the discussions, the breakdown was announced by M. Henri Fayat of Belgium, current chairman of the conference. He stated that, because of the French request, the member states of the EEC and the community were unable to continue the negotiations.

Defending the French action M. Couve de Murville declared: "The responsibility that we have taken is . . . of having said it was preferable to face facts. . . . In the present state of things Britain

is not in a condition to accept the disciplines of the Treaty of Rome and notably those of the agricultural policy."

"Faced by critics on all sides who say that we want, we French, a little Europe, I will say once more that we are not trying to keep Europe small or large, but to be sure . . . only that it is European."

The references of M. Couve de Murville to the disciplines of the treaty have led some commentators to assume that it remains true that all Britain had to do is to sign the treaty and thus override the French veto. This is not so. Britain has accepted the treaty already. The "disciplines" referred to, and the particular agricultural policy sought by France, are not parts of the treaty. And it is upon them that negotiations have broken down.

But it is clear that even if Britain accepted all the French interpretations and details of the "disciplines," entry into the Common Market still would be refused. For the essential basic requirements set out by President de Gaulle, and M. Couve de Murville speaking for de Gaulle, actually are these:

1. Dissociation of Britain from the American alliance. ("America would make short work of absorbing the European Community.")
2. Dissociation of Britain from the Commonwealth. ("Give up all preferences.")
3. Dissociation from EFTA. ("Other nations would completely change the whole system.")
4. Abandonment of the concept of the Atlantic Community ("which would be dependent on and under the direction of America.")
5. Concentration upon building a new superpower that would be militarily as well as economically independent. ("A Europe that is European.")

It is only if Britain can meet these conditions that it can be "accepted" into the Common Market. If it can not, entry is impossible. And that is inevitably the case, however cooperative and "Atlantic" the other five members of the Common Market may be, and regardless of any contacts or arrangements between them and Britain. For entry can not be effected without the agreement of France.

France is also likely to take steps to keep Britain and America "out of Europe" in other ways, such as through the regulation of investment from foreign companies and the refusal to make substantial reductions in Europe's industrial tariffs.

Both Britain and the United States still aim, first, at the consolidation of full European unity and, then, the strengthening of the Atlantic concept. The aims clearly can not be fulfilled unless the French Government changes its attitude. The question to be answered now is, what means do Britain, EFTA, the Commonwealth, and the United States have at their disposal to encourage a change of attitude?

They would appear to have few indeed unless and until they take practical steps to institutionalize the idea of an Atlantic Community, which being a greater idea could absorb the lesser.

THEY SAY...

The Chinese are our friends and always will be. When friends quarrel or disagree, it is not terribly serious.
—Nikita Khrushchev.



NOTHING SPECIAL

(W. B. S.)

Harry Boivin received a letter last week from one of his constituents. It asked him to:
— Cut taxes
— Provide more money for highways
— Provide more money for education
— Provide more money for welfare
— Cut the governor's salary.

Harry promptly read it into the Senate record as a means of solving all of the state's fiscal problems.

The state of Mississippi is the last stronghold of prohibition in this country. A candidate for public office down there was well known for his capacity for liquor and was more or less put on the spot by his hometown newspaper asking him the question: "How do you stand on whiskey?"

He replied:
Dear Mr. Editor:
"I am sorry that you asked the question as I had not intended to raise such a controversial subject at this particular time."

"However I want you to know that I do not shun a controversy. To the contrary I'll take a stand on any issue anywhere and anytime regardless of how fraught with controversy it may be. You have asked me how I feel about whiskey. Well brother here's how I stand on the matter."

"If when you say whiskey, or demon rum, you mean the Devil's brew, the Poison scourge, the Bloody Monster; that which defiles innocence, dethrones reason, creates misery and poverty, yea literally takes the bread out of the mouths of babes. If you mean that evil drink that topples the Christian man and woman from pinnacles of righteousness and gracious living into the bottomless pit of despair and degradation, shame, helplessness and hopelessness, then certainly I am against it with all my power, might and main."

"But if when you say whiskey you mean the oil that lubricates conversation, the philosophic wine and ale that is consumed when good fellows get together; that puts a song in their hearts and laughter on their lips and the warm glow of contentment in their eyes. If you mean Christmas Cheer? If you mean that stimulating drink that puts spring-

ness in an old man's steps on a frosty morning? If you mean the drink that enables man to magnify his joy and happiness and to forget, if only for a moment, life's great tragedies, heart-break and sorrows? If you mean that drink, the sale of which, pours into the treasury untold millions of dollars, which are used to provide tender care for our little crippled children, the deaf, dumb, blind and our pitifully aged and infirm. That builds highways, hospitals and schools. Then brother I am for it.

"This is my stand Mr. Editor—I will not retract nor compromise."

There's a great deal of confusion surrounding the so-called "gerrymander" plan set up to solve the school problem in Klamath County. Actually, it's pretty hard to explain in simple terms. We're trying to develop a map-chart that will show simply the boundaries and what areas are involved in the proposed districts. Even some of the proponents of the plan find it hard to explain to those who have not been close to the subject. And, even if one does understand what the speaker is talking about, it's hard to retain in mind. I'm afraid that a plan that involves the complexity of shifting tax bases, boundaries and bodies doesn't stand much chance of approval at the polls. We're going to get as much informative material together as we can for consideration of voters before the election takes place.

I think it will be a good thing for a legislative interim committee to study the practices and the policies of the Oregon State Game Commission. I think there is a certain amount of hysteria in the allegations of the sportsmen, and generally side with the Commission that experts in game management are more qualified to carry out a program relating to seasons and limits on game. But, there is so much concern over the deer program that one is forced to acknowledge the sportsmen must have some validity in their charges against the Commission practices. If the interim committee report does nothing else, it should serve to clear the air. In any event, I hope we don't get into a position where we have the legislature writing the game laws for the state.

Letters To The Editor

Pet Killers

I have just read Mrs. M. Reeves' letter and I would like to write a few lines in agreement. Last summer my little dog was run over on Orchard Way. (A street only a block long, which should mean a car would be going quite slow turning off one street onto another one, but wasn't) and the person or persons didn't even have the decency to stop!

I had out of town company at the time with three small children and it was quite a shock to them to say the least.

Last but not least my married daughter (expecting a baby in four months) was there. She had given the dog to me when she got married, so it was real sad all the way around. Maverick wasn't a pedigreed dog, just a family pet. I don't expect them (the killer or killers) to lose any sleep because anyone that can kill a beloved pet and drive on by can't have a heart, hence no feeling. But Mrs. Reeves, I sympathize with you and your son and know how you must feel. We lost Maverick last June and still miss his greeting at the door.

No one stopped and reported hitting him.

He followed my daughter across the street to visit a friend, because he loved her so much and she him, otherwise he wouldn't have left the yard. I hope some day there will be laws to take care of people who ruthlessly kill pets, because believe me, I've seen it happen.

Mrs. Clara Hall,
2417 Orchard Ave.

Almanac

By United Press International
Today is Sunday, March 10, the 69th day of 1963 with 296 to follow.

The moon is full.
The morning stars are Venus and Mars.
The evening star is Mars.
On this day in history:
In 1862, the first paper money was issued by the U.S. government, ranging in denominations from five dollars to one thousand dollars.
In 1943, B29 bombers of the U.S. Air Force began their incendiary raids on Japan.



"You're not THE Charles de Gaulle . . . the one who knows Princess Grace?"