

Herald and News

# Editorial Page

## The Final Arbiter

It is a commonplace that the president of the United States gets no easy matters for decision. More commonly than it is, the same ought to be said of the United States Supreme Court.

Hearing only some 200 cases a year, it has no time for small things. It must focus on questions of broad import.

The pressures of time, however, are not crucial in compelling this concentration on large judicial affairs. The fact is, this is the high court's function.

A former American Bar Assn. president, Charles S. Rhyne, who has tried a hundred cases before the Supreme Court in the past 25 years, calls it this country's great "organ of decision."

He argues that any free government needs such a final arbiter. For, inevitably, there will be many potential stalemates as major conflicting interests battle for position in the arena. Who is to break them or prevent them if there is no place of last resort?

Not the least reason for this nation's pre-Constitution paralysis under the Articles of Confederation, suggests Rhyne, was the absence of anything like the present high court.

He sees it as fitting and necessary that we shape our great controversies for ultimate decision at this level. We cannot leave them undecided. The other courses would be either a new paralysis or conflict approaching war.

The Supreme Court's role as final resort is not an enviable one. The great controversies it hears are almost certainly charged with emotion. The court knows powerful, sometimes socially disruptive consequences

may follow its decision. Its members know, too, that they are human and can make mistakes.

This is perhaps the key reason it so often moves slowly. Yet the time for choice always comes when the end of the road is at hand and deeply entrenched stalemate threatens to become permanent.

Inescapably, critical decisions are unpopular with many. If they were not, the high court's interest in the issue involved probably would be misplaced.

But here Rhyne makes a significant point. It is every citizen's right and privilege to assail the court's rulings, especially when it is recognized that human judgment can err. Nevertheless, the lawyer argues, it is wrong to direct this attack against either the court as an agency or the judges as individuals.

They, sitting as a court, are acting in the difficult, unpopular task for which they were chosen. We must presume they are doing so according to their oath, and to the best of their ability.

If we do not place our faith in them, as individuals and as a body, then in whom may we place it? Should the president, leading the nation, be the judge of affairs he often initiates? Should the Congress, embroiled in politics and passing many laws whose language it hardly knows, be the appraiser of its own acts?

Only the Supreme Court stands at all aloof. Even it can be jarred from its vital detachment. But it is still the only great organ of choice our system of government has given us.

## Special Targets

(Hartford Courant)

The special Senate subcommittee on aging has been hearing some pretty disconcerting testimony on the way old folk are being bilked by swindlers and quacks. To this unconscionable breed of scoundrels Whistler's Mother would have been not just a nice old lady, but a target for a phony land deal . . . They might well have tried to sell her a plot of land in the Mojave Desert 50 miles from the nearest river. . . . Thousands were duped by this "lakeside" development.

Those who add a chronic ailment to their other worries are specially vulnerable. Food and Drug Administration officials figure that \$500 million a year is spent by old people on

worthless health foods, or bogus vitamin specialties. . . . Last year it is estimated that 9 million persons over 45 spent as many million dollars on quack remedies. . . .

It has been suggested that postal laws be tightened so that officials can move more quickly against the charlatans. Food and drug officials would also like to have the laws streamlined so they can get phony drugs off the market quickly. But the committee is not at a law-writing stage now. It has struck a rich vein of villainy and, as chairman McNamara says, "This field is larger than we expected." Like everything else in our country: Robbing the old is a big enterprise.

IN WASHINGTON . . .

## Training Program Vital

By RALPH DE TOLEDANO

There is general agreement across the country that something must be done to provide employment for young people. They make up the largest single group in the nation's unemployed. And they have the least chance to get the almost five million jobs which are today going a-begging because of a shortage of qualified labor.

The Domestic Peace Corps is President Kennedy's answer to the problem. I am sure that he sincerely believes in it. But labor experts are almost unanimous in their insistence that any kind of a

new CCC will merely aggravate the problem. It will take young people and put them to work for a period of time—certainly. But it will not train them in the skills necessary to make them employable. They will leave the corps just as helpless and unemployed as when they went in.

The tragedy is that the government, the schools, and the labor unions are not doing anything to make useful citizens, instead of unemployment statistics, of the young men and women looking for work today.

In a significant article appearing in this month's Harper's, Edward T. Chase points out one reason why. He decries a system "that produces unneeded farmers, cabinet-makers, and weavers while the demand is rising for business-machine repairmen, chefs, auto mechanics, and electrical servicemen—to mention only a few of the skills in short supply."

"Skills" is, of course, the key word. Every year the nation's need for blue collar workers diminishes. At the same time, white collar workers and technicians of all sorts are increasingly in demand. But the vocational schools are dealing in skills that are clearly obsolete.

"So archaic is most of the training given in vocational schools," Mr. Chase writes, "that unions in the printing, plumbing, food and other trades refuse to give credit to it. Graduates from vocational schools must start from scratch on apprenticeships often running from three to five years."

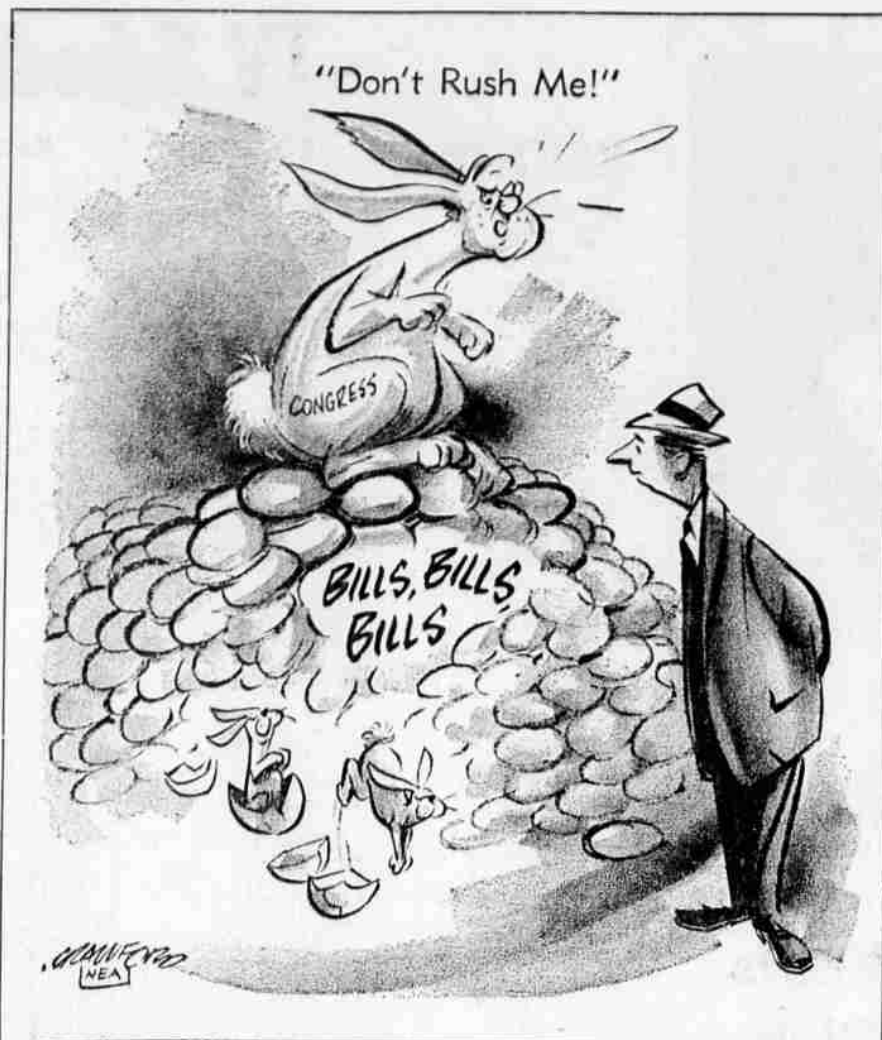
Those apprenticeships, moreover, are pitifully few in number and all bound around by favoritism and trade union mumbo-jumbo. The vocational-education system is still way back in 1917 when the Smith-Hughes Act was passed. At that time, one-third of the American labor force was employed in agriculture. Today, it is only one-eighth. Yet half of the Federal money spent under the still-existent Smith-Hughes Act goes toward the training of

new—and unnecessary—farmers. We're getting the farmers, but the U.S. economy, as Mr. Chase points out, will need 50,000 new carpenters, 5,000 tool-and-die-makers, and 10,000 new plumbers every year in the 1960s. And our vocational schools are not turning them out—simply because an educationist lobby, which beats its breast over juvenile delinquency, is far behind the times but still has a powerful voice in Congress. The head of this lobby insists that there is nothing wrong in a system which trains young Americans for jobs that don't exist any more but refuses to give them the needed skills.

The girls who study home economics—20 per cent of Smith-Hughes funds go for that, Mr. Chase says—are learning how to be the kind of housewives who would be considered efficient in the day of home-churned butter and the crank-type ice cream freezer. Typing, filing, and office work are not considered "vocational" to the lobbyists—so no federal funds are spent in training girls to do these essential jobs.

Congress is deeply concerned over the lack of work for millions of young people who just don't know how to do anything except use their hands. But a Domestic Peace Corps, which will put these youngsters to work at leaf-raking jobs and manual labor, is hardly the answer. The problem is a big one and, in fact, should not be surrendered to Congress.

The nation's schools, locally run, are the place for giving a new generation the tools for economic survival. And the schools can do it if they stop listening to the butter-churning educationist lobby and look to themselves for an answer. More and more, the educationist lobby is shutting the doors of vocational schools to those who most need them. It's about time Mr. and Mrs. Citizen and the local PTA stop worrying about the John Birch Society and devote themselves to this vital job.



By SYDNEY J. HARRIS  
Exactly one hundred years ago, in a burst of typical 19th Century optimism, Victor Hugo wrote an essay on the "future of man" in which he predicted:

"In the 20th century, war will be dead, the scaffold will be dead, hatred will be dead, frontier boundaries will be dead, dogmas will be dead; man will live. He will possess something higher than all these—a great country, the whole earth, and a great hope, the whole heaven."

These ringing words were inspired by the Industrial Revolution, by the discoveries of Darwin and Huxley, by the advances in science, medicine and technology. In the latter half of the 19th Century, it seemed as if man might at last conquer the conditions of his existence and create a new Eden based on Rationalism, Progress and Humanism—the three reigning deities in the pantheon of that era.

But it was not to be. Hardly more than a dozen years after the turn of the new century, the Western world was plunged into the fiercest and bloodiest of all wars. Twenty years after the end of that, another war engulfed half the world. And now, again 20 years later, we are poised on the brink of the most calamitous conflict that can be imagined—indeed, it cannot even be imagined.

War is more virulently alive than ever, hatred is greater and deeper than ever, frontier boundaries are more sharply defined and more passionately defended, and the new dogmas of communism and fascism have become pandemic. The savagery, butch-

## STRICTLY PERSONAL

ery and irrationality of the 20th Century have outstripped anything known to man since the dawn of civilization.

Never before has one age been so wrong about the next. Except for the rare dissonant voices of a Nietzsche or a Kierkegaard, all the sages of the 19th Century failed to foresee the upsurging of our primitive drives, the recrudescence of hatred, the bloody tides of racism and nationalism, the fears and anxieties that would plague modern man.

Why did this come about? The reasons are various and complicated—but the main reason, in my opinion, is that men concentrated too much on control of their environment, and too little on control of themselves. Thus, every advance in our supremacy over nature only increased the distance between the perfection of our means and the confusion of our ends. Our capacity for doing evil outstripped our desire to do good.

The central problem of our age is not political or economic or military. It is the problem of raising our humanness to the level of our technology—or else having our technology obliterate our humanness. Our failure to see this, and to act upon it, is the sin of our time.

WASHINGTON REPORT . . .

## JFK Didn't Get Letter From Hosmer

By FULTON LEWIS JR.

Two weeks ago Congressman Craig Hosmer dispatched to President Kennedy a letter of vital importance.

Hosmer is ranking Republican on the Joint Atomic Energy Committee and one of the country's best experts on nuclear testing and disarmament. He laid his cards on the table in the very first paragraph of his March 18 letter:

"I sincerely hope this letter may reach you because it contains information relating to the national security which I feel you may not otherwise receive."

The President did not, however, receive that letter. It was intercepted by an anonymous aide and the Congressman received a standard, thank-you form letter for his troubles.

Here is what Hosmer told the President:

"Your disarmament agency officials recently outlined to the Joint Committee many of the provisions of a revised test ban treaty under preparation which they state will soon be offered to the Soviets. This proposal contains a loophole through which the Soviets can move clandestinely to nuclear weapons superiority and its equivalent, Communist world domination."

Hosmer told the President that government witnesses had testified that the verification system to be proposed "is inadequate to detect and identify underground test cheating at yields equivalent to 3 kilotons and below if tested in alluvium formations 620 miles within the Soviet Union."

According to Hosmer's calculations, this gives Russian scientists at least 2.5 million square miles in which to test to their heart's content.

Under terms of the U.S. "draft" treaty, the United States would forego wholly any and all weapons development; and as a practical matter, simply trust the Soviets to keep their word not to carry on undetectable tests and secretly develop nuclear weapons of vast military significance.

Listed below are the significant weapons which Maj. General A. W. Betts, director of military applications for the Atomic Energy Commission, told the Joint Committee could be clandestinely tested and developed in this undetectable area:

1. Relatively low-yield weapons of the tactical type.  
2. High-yield tactical weapons that could be developed by extrapolation from explosions as small as 1 kiloton, without the necessity for proof testing.  
3. At least one-half of all strategic weapons of all yields and types of interest to the military—all without the need for proof testing.

As an indication of where weapons development interest lies, General Betts revealed that 50 per cent of all U.S. underground testing in Nevada is carried out in this low, undetectable, below 3-kiloton range.

Actually tests much larger than 3 kilotons can be carried out clandestinely under terms of the pro-



## NOTHING SPECIAL

(W. B. S.)

A Prayer For Newsmen is this unusual invocation of particular meaning to newsmen (and I think to our readers, who undoubtedly will get a message from these remarks) was delivered by Monsignor John B. Cavanagh, editor of the Catholic Register, at a recent meeting of the Colorado Press Association at Colorado Springs. In these days of "managed" news and other attempts at manipulating the news, the following paragraphs have particular significance.

"Almighty God, the fountain-head of truth, give us convictions that are forged of steel, that cannot be bent or twisted or snapped by venal expediency, callous indifference, sanguine self-interest, or a cancerous betrayal of our trust as purveyors of truth. The devil is no fool, and his recruiting program never stops. There are no coffee breaks in hell. His hours are the length of the day, and his years are the measure of eternity. In the beginning, he appropriately assumed a becoming image, a talking snake. He betrayed and won his first victim, a woman, and the lie became the badge and hallmark of every liar of both sexes from Adam and Eve to this atomic era."

"We have succeeded in making our progenitors in the liars' sweepstakes look serenely angelic. There can be no such thing as virtue in any misrepresentation. The father of lies knows his disciples. He may give a knowing wink to the man who lifts a paper off the news stand without paying for it. He may give an encouraging smile to the man who plagiarizes a story or lifts a column. He may give a rattle of his tail to the man who pads his swindle sheet. Undoubtedly, he has a handshake for the man who lives a lie in sheer hypocrisy."

"But he has a serpentine embrace for the newspaperman who perverts the truth in his columns; who creates an ad that misleads or corrupts; who pollutes the clear stream of truth in news columns by injecting innuendoes, suggestive and inflammatory devices of deceit, and by leaving unaided monuments to slander and character defilement. May we not so much wonder whose side God is on, but with a renewed pledge to honesty and integrity, may we never wonder whose side we are on, Amen."

That \$15 billion the House passed recently to be spent for military purchases probably doesn't sound like much of a hunk of the \$108 billion dollar budget proposed. But, reduced to some simple terms, we see

what it could mean, if that money were directed into other channels (and I'm not saying it should be). To use all of that money in a single year, the military will have to spend at the rate of \$6,000,000 an hour or \$141 million, a day, or \$938 million a week.

The money would buy 3.4 million \$15,000 homes. Or 12.74 million \$4,000 automobiles. Or more than 150 billion loaves of bread.

At the rate of \$1,000,000 a day it would take 140 years to spend it down to the last dollar. And if it were stacked up in silver dollars, measuring a silver dollar at one-eighth of an inch, it would tower to a height of some 100,000 miles, or circle the earth four times.

Any way you look at it, it adds up to a pretty penny.

Jack Guinn is a columnist on the Denver Post. He is one of the wittiest, sharpest writers of the time. And he's clever. He has come up with a heck of a novel idea which, he alleges, will solve the world's problems. He is leader of a dedicated band of Coloradans—among them former Colorado Gov. Steve McNichols—who are organizing the World's First Seminar on Inconsequential Matters.

The seminar is designed—tailored by Guinn—to conflict with another seminar at Aspen, Colo. At this seminar, the topic of discussion will be "The U.S. Image Abroad."

While eggheads are busy discussing "The U.S. Image Abroad," the World's First Seminar on Inconsequential Matters will be deep in examination of "Irritating Ways to Haggle With French Postcard Salesmen and Other Tricks to Keep Europeans From Taking Our Money."

Other topics will include, "How To Rexdax While Republicans Drive, or, After Novocaine, What?" Also, "Songs for Sit-Ins at Saloons," and "Courage In Our Times: Would Bertrand Russell Sit on a Wet Sidewalk to Help Ban the Double Martini?"

The real drawing card is bound to be the panel discussion on "How To Load An Elephant On An Airplane." Valuable information on this vital matter comes from an elephant expert who claims that by placing a chicken on the head of the elephant, it will remain calm during the loading—and even during the flight.

Guinn asks the logical question: "Would not the world be a better place if the leaders wore chickens on their heads?"

## BERRY'S WORLD



"Why can't you get a job in a field with growth potential—like, say, the Internal Revenue Service?"

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank You

I would like to thank the staff of the Herald and News and the chamber of commerce, and all my friends for all of their support which they gave me in the Mrs. Oregon Contest.

It was wonderful and thrilling to be chosen one of three finalists but it was far more rewarding to know I had the support of my home town and friends.

I wish Mrs. Sandra Osterdorn of Salem a successful reign and all the luck in the world toward the possibility of becoming Mrs. America.

Virginia McGaughey

## Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Sunday, April 7, the 97th day of 1963 with 268 to follow.

The moon is approaching full phase.

The morning stars are Venus and Saturn.

The evening star is Mars.

Those born today include English poet William Wordsworth, in 1770.

On this day in history:

In 1927, an audience at the Bell Telephone laboratories in New York witnessed the first successful long distance demonstration of television as Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover spoke from his desk in Washington.

In 1939, Italy invaded Albania.

In 1947, telephone workers in 39 states started a 23 day strike.

In 1953, Dag Hammarskjöld was elected Secretary General of the United Nations.

A thought for the day—Norwegian author Henrik Ibsen said: "There can be no freedom or beauty about a home life that depends upon borrowing or debt."