

Herald and News

Editorial Page

Somebody Is Concerned

Reports from the U.S. General Accounting Office roll out two and three a day, faster than anybody can read them.

These reports do not necessarily audit irregularities, but are aimed at carelessness in the handling of millions of government dollars.

It cost \$41 million to run the GAO for the fiscal year ending last June 30. But it collected \$48 million in refunds and effected other savings of \$114 million for a total of \$162 million, which is nearly a four-to-one ratio of return.

The comfort in this for taxpayers at this time of year is that there is really somebody in Washington who is concerned about government spending, mistakes, inefficiency and waste — and tries to do something about it.

Though Comptroller General Joseph Campbell, who has headed GAO since 1954, is the servant of Congress, his day-to-day, blue-bound paperback reports, ranging in size from only a dozen pages to fat books over an inch thick, are so voluminous that no congressman can keep up with them.

There were 822 GAO reports to Congress last year and 113 to the Budget Bureau. There were 766 investigations of 411 government contractors. There were 152 reviews at 611 U.S. military installations.

There also were 459 reviews at 1,359 civil government locations. There were audits of 4.5 million bills of lading and of 2.3 million requests for government transportation. A total of \$30 million in overcharges was recovered. And so on.

A few of these reports make brief sensations, but most get routine news coverage. Carelessness in handling government funds is old stuff and the conscience of the country is caloused to it. The impact is not what it should be.

It takes something like the annual report

of the comptroller general, which has just come out, to get a perspective on this whole effort and its magnitude.

The report itself is not dramatic reading and it will never become a best seller (\$1.75 from the Government Printing Office), even with rave reviews. But it is scandalous reading just the same.

It takes nearly 5,000 government employees to staff the General Accounting Office, more than 3,000 in Washington and the rest in some 120 field offices in the United States and in 22 foreign countries where military and economic aid projects were checked into.

The 365 lawyers on the GAO staff handled 4,400 decisions last year. They settled 15,000 claims against the government and helped Department of Justice on 60 cases in which suits for \$4.4 million were settled for \$2.6 million at a \$1.8 million saving.

More than 150 GAO lawyers were assigned to congressional committees to help in their investigations.

Among the important savings which GAO is credited with last year are these:

- * Reduction in Air Force proficiency flying costs, \$13 million last year with another \$32 million to be saved this year.

- * Cancellation of planned procurement, \$18 million.

- * Cancellation of requisitions for supplies not needed, \$12 million.

- * Transfer of materials from one agency to another, \$30 million.

- * Reclamation of parts from excess aircraft engines, \$8 million.

GAO has no authority to audit the accounts on U.S. government contributions of nearly \$100 million last year to international organizations. That, in the opinion of Campbell, is one of the major loopholes in his operations, since the United States is the biggest contributor to most of them.

The Creation Of Instant History

One of Dwight Eisenhower's former speech writers, Emmett Hughes, is stirring a few feathers with his fairly intimate memoirs of life around the White House under "Ike."

It is reported that President Kennedy quickly devoured Hughes' book, "The Ordeal of Power." Aside from his natural interest in what his predecessor did, Kennedy may be curious about the role of writers in high places.

He has a few close by himself. One is Arthur Schlesinger, historian, who says he has already learned enough to cast in doubt

his old historian's techniques. Another is McGeorge Bundy, foreign affairs specialist.

One could forgive Kennedy for wondering, in the light of Hughes' effort, whether fellows like Schlesinger and Bundy whip out their little notebooks the moment they leave the President's office.

After all, if good history is getting hard to write as Schlesinger says, putting the stuff down quick seems vital. But the new method involves another problem — how to keep the historian himself from now and then upstaging the other White House performers.

IN WASHINGTON . . .

Alliance Slogans Failure

By RALPH de TOLEDANO

In politics, old slogans never die—they just become institutionalized. Most of the economic policies being touted today by learned liberal ideologues are based on the slogans of the 1930s and imposed by badgered legislators on situations of a far different nature than those which obtained them. And so it is with the Alliance for Progress, President Kennedy's "answer" to Communism in Latin America.

The slogans on which the Alliance for Progress are based have become so accepted that few bother to determine (1) if they are valid, and (2) if the solutions to which they inevitably point will help or hurt in the fight against Communist penetration.

In answer to charges of a "do-nothing" Cuban policy, the President and other Administration spokesmen have said repeatedly that the only way to defeat Communism south of the border is to improve living standards and economic conditions. As a general proposition, every American will endorse the betterment of life among our Latin neighbors. But historically, the theory of "belly Communism" has never been found to apply and this is demonstrably so in Latin America.

Look at the facts and figures. Cuba under Batista was the fourth most prosperous country in Latin America, basing this figure on the per capita share of the Gross National Product. Yet Cuba went Communist. Venezuela, with the highest per capita share of GNP, is among the Latin American nations most threatened. According to some experts, it is poised on a razor's edge and may fall into the Red abyss at any moment. (Venezuela's GNP is more than double that of its closest rival.) Brazil, which ranks eighth, and is among the more prosperous Latin nations, is in a period of crisis and could be victimized by Communist revolt on

the so far withheld signal of Nikita Khrushchev. Some of the poorer nations of the inter-American alliance are among the freest from Communist infiltration or agitation.

So much for the basic thesis of the Alliance for Progress — namely, that improving economic conditions will forestall a Communist takeover. But what of the procedures whereby the Alliance for Progress proposes to bring prosperity to Latin America? U.S. foreign aid officials south of the border are pressing a program designed in Washington. The experts say that one important phase of it is more likely to hurt than to help the economies of the participating nations.

Here again, an old slogan dominates. The answer to poverty and the way to win over the lower classes which are presumably prey to Communist agitation is, we are told, "land reform." (It used to be called "agrarian reform" until Mao Tse-tung and the Chinese Reds took over that phrase.)

But "land reform"—as pushed by the Alliance for Progress—will do precisely the opposite of what it is intended to do. Very briefly, it will simultaneously decrease agricultural production and the income of the Latin American farmer. It will also depress the economy by forcing the countries involved to import more food — thereby reducing their foreign exchange and the capital accumulations necessary for the industrial growth so badly needed.

The reason for this is very simple. As former Under Secretary of Commerce Philip A. Ray points out in his careful study of Latin America, "South Wind Red," Latin American leaders are increasingly "recognizing that the introduction of modern farm techniques in mechanization, irrigation, and fertilization rather than fragmentation or 'land reform' is the sole means of increasing

farm productivity. Modern techniques require capital and large land holdings to be workable.

At present roughly 50 per cent of the Latin American poor live in providing an inadequate supply of food. If the farms of today are chopped up that percentage will rise. The labor force necessary for urban and rural industrialization will not be available—and Latin America will find itself in the same kind of economic bind as Red China and the Soviet Union.

If these points are not sufficiently convincing, there is one clincher. Country after country in Latin America has attempted land reform by fragmentation. It has never worked. If the U.S. wants to encourage individual initiative in Latin America, it should prevail on the governments there to turn over to venturesome souls some of its vast holdings of uncultivated land—as America did in the days when we opened the West.

Almanac

By United Press International
Today is Thursday, April 25, the 115th day of 1963 with 250 to follow.

The moon is approaching its first quarter.

The morning stars are Venus and Saturn.

The evening stars are Mercury and Mars.

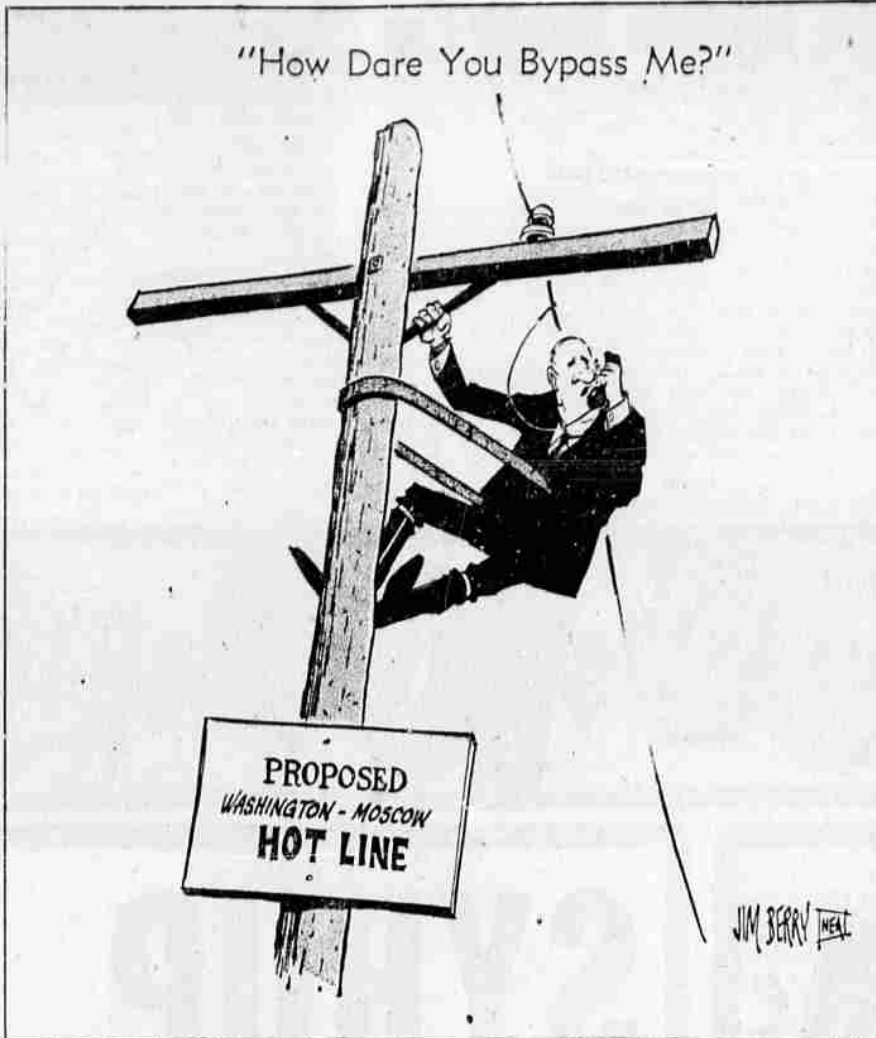
Those born on this date include the Italian inventor of the wireless, Marconi, in 1874.

In 1946, the first shots of the Mexican War were fired.

In 1901, New York became the first state to require license plates on automobiles and 954 cars were registered.

In 1945, the U.S. First Army and Russian troops joined forces over the Elbe River.

In 1945, delegates from 46 countries met at San Francisco to form the United Nations.



By SYDNEY J. HARRIS

Purely Personal Prejudices: The world of politics are the liberal who knows what requires to be changed and the conservative who knows which things are worth conserving—but these are only one out of a thousand, in both camps.

Small children instinctively feel more at home with animals than with adults; and this natural affinity, I think, is simply that animals do not pretend to be, or feel, what they are not.

Some critics pay so much veneration to the authors of antiquity that they do not even look at the dead as out of spite and envy toward the living.

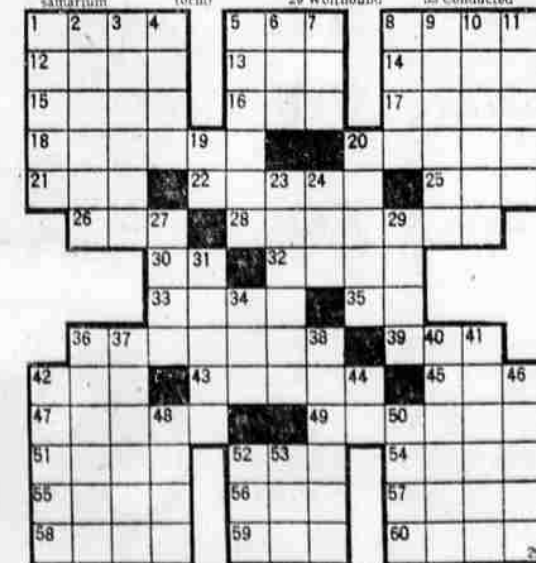
The fatal flaw that forever prevents the clever man from becoming the wise man is his refusal to accept the truth of La Rochefoucauld's maxim: "On peut être plus fin qu'un autre, mais non pas plus fin que tous les autres." —"One person can be astuter than another, but not astuter than all the others."

A person may not believe your flattery, and may like you no better for it, but still he cannot help being pleased that you consider him worth flattering.

When we say that someone has "independent means," we usually mean precisely the opposite—that he or she has inherited or married money and is dependent upon the legacy achieved through another's efforts. Such "independence" most often exacts a high price.

Tree Talk

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS | 36 Favorite |
| 1 Conferees | 39 Seine |
| 2 Acorn producer | 42 Indian weight |
| 3 Coconut tree | 43 European finch |
| 4 Arabian gulf | 45 Ties |
| 5 Sheepfold | 47 Smallest amount |
| 6 Tree cover much of the earth's | 49 Musical composition |
| 7 Peruse | 51 Shield bearing |
| 8 Boy's name | 52 Brew |
| 9 Military site | 53 Italian city |
| 10 Hammer head | 54 Clover |
| 11 Playing cards | 56 Through |
| 12 Christmas song | 57 Vend |
| 13 Female saint | 58 Formerly |
| 14 | 59 Redactors (ab) |
| 22 Certain tree product | 60 Very (Fr.) |
| 23 Chemical suffix | |
| 24 Stray | DOWN |
| 25 Candies | 1 Separates |
| 26 And (Latin) | 2 Fable |
| 27 Rind | 3 Closer |
| 28 Tree seed coating | 4 Within (comb. form) |
| 29 Symbol for sanguine | 5 Prayer |
| | 6 Air (comb. form) |



STRICTLY PERSONAL

Watching a beautifully groomed and skillfully made-up woman in an elevator keep patting her hair with her fingers and adjusting her coat collar, it occurred to me that if woman lacks repose all her contrived appeal turns to ashes in the beholder's eyes; and a woman who is overly-conscious of being well turned out, and preoccupied with the impression she is creating, utterly destroys what she is trying to achieve.

(And wasn't it Madame Recamier's definition of a "lady" that "she never thinks of being one?")

To explain away a mistake is a more grievous error than making the mistake in the first place—the consequences of making a mistake can usually be rectified, but the habit of explaining away "prevents all future learning and growth."

If people were prevented from chattering about the recent books they have read, nine-tenths of the volumes on the best-seller list would perish in their first edition.

Knowledge is power only when it is based on self-knowledge; otherwise it becomes either ineffectual or self-destructive.

THEY SAY...

The average John Birch would not know a Communist if he met Khrushchev face to face in Moscow's Red Square.

—Rep. Carl Elliott, D-Ala.

THE GLOBAL VIEW

Red Agents Plot Latin Strategy

By LEON DENNEN
Newspaper Enterprise Analyst

WASHINGTON (NEA) — While President Kennedy seeks to revitalize the Alliance for Progress, Soviet agents are plotting another "round of revolutions" in Latin America.

The long range strategy to be used in the Kremlin's new thrust below the Rio Grande was spelled out at a secret round table of top Latin American Reds held recently in Moscow.

Chairman of the conclave was A. Rumyantsev, a member of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party and Nikita Khrushchev's top international trouble shooter.

The architects of Russia's power plot, according to a secret blueprint now studied by U.S. specialists on communism, stressed the importance of wooing and even carrying on "an illicit love affair with democracy," to speed the Red takeover in Latin America.

Communists must bring into the fight against American imperialism "as many allies as possible—even temporary and unsteady allies." Rumyantsev urged the Latin American Red chieftains. "We must form a single National Democratic Front which unites all the progressive and patriotic forces in your respective countries."

The delegate from Brazil, J. Gonder, chided Latin American Reds for directing their main assault against their "national bourgeoisie" and not against the United States. He criticized them for their failure to fight for a united front which "must always be under the leadership of the Communist party."

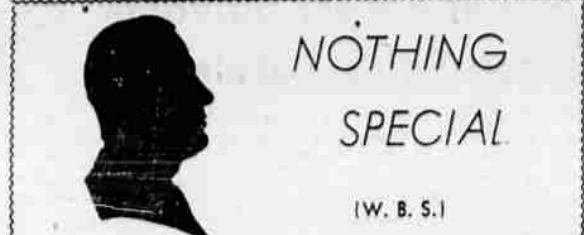
O. Ghioldi, Argentina's Red chieftain, informed the meeting that the aim of his party has always been the creation of a National Democratic Front of Communists, followers of the ousted dictator Juan Peron and other political groups formed "as a result of splits among the traditional democratic parties."

Every speaker at the Red conclave spoke of the need for a union of industrial workers and campesinos (peasants). This could only be attained if the Communists "raised the flag of the fight for land."

Cuba's top Red, Blas Roca, said the undisputed revolutionary brinkmanship of Red China's Mao Tse-tung was the main obstacle in the way of the creation of a single National Democratic Front in Latin America.

Uruguay's representative, J. Masser, said that even some capitalists and land owners could take part in association with Communists in such fronts. He hastened to add that "these fronts are to be temporary in nature." They will be backed by the Communists until conditions for revolutions in Latin America have been created.

Moscow's new long range plan for action in the Western Hemisphere was obviously devised to counteract the growing support for President Kennedy's Alliance for Progress. But it is also designed to check in Latin America the rising influence of Mao Tse-tung who is backed by Fidel Castro but not by Cuba's pro-Moscowite Reds.



NOTHING SPECIAL

(W. B. S.)

What Next Dep't.: In this week's Western Livestock Journal there's a picture of a helicopter hovering over a cattle feeding lot. And here's what the caption beneath the picture reads—believe it or not! "This Arizona feedlot is shown receiving an application of deodorant by special helicopter designed to spray the new GS 17 deodorizing chemical. The scene is the McElhenny Cattle Co. at Tempe, Goodyear farms and other Arizona feeders are experimenting with the new spray-on deodorant in efforts to solve problems created by civilization wrapping itself around the cattle business, then complaining about the odor."

Who knows, we may lick this zoning problem yet.

The American Medical Association reports that accidental poisonings, mostly in the home, have become one of the major causes of accidents in America, particularly to small children. It's no wonder—a quarter of a million products used in the home and in industry are potentially hazardous.

The products aren't to be blamed—they serve wanted, useful and essential purposes. The fault lies in the way they are handled. The AMA offers a set of simple rules to prevent poisoning in the home:

- * Keep all drugs, poisonous substances and household chemicals out of reach of children. Do not transfer poisonous substances to unlabeled containers. Never re-use containers of chemical substances. Do not leave discarded medicines where children or pets might get at them. Never tell children you are giving them candy when you are actually giving them medicine. Read the labels before using chemical products. Never give or take medicines in the dark.

- * Another important stricture is that speed is essential to stop absorption of a poison. If possible,

one person should begin first aid while another calls a physician. And the poison container with its label and remaining contents should be saved and given to the physician or the hospital.

* The final point is that prevention is much easier than treatment. Take a look around your home for potential hazards and correct them today.

The following "creed" or variations of it are finding more and more circulation. I first heard of it during last November's political campaign. Then, again, it popped up when a Rotary speaker used it earlier this spring. Even more recently, it has been in several exchanges of one sort or another. It goes:

"I do not choose to be a common man. It is my right to be uncommon—if I can. I seek opportunity—not security. I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and lulled by having the state look after me. I want to take the calculated risk; to dream and to build, to fail and to succeed. I refuse to barter incentive for a dime. I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence; the thrill of fulfillment to the state calm of Utopia. I will not trade freedom for beneficence nor my dignity for a hand-out. It is my heritage to think and act for myself, enjoy the benefit of my creations, and to face the world boldly and say this is what I have done. All this is what it means to be an American."

High sounding words. It is unfortunate that many of the people who mouth this and similar statements are those who work hard at ripping apart the structure that made America great.

A couple of die-hards are Wes Guderian and Mel Howie. Wes has a Unander sticker on the front bumper of his horseless carriage and Mel still plugs Bob Chandler for Congress on his Volks.



EDSON IN WASHINGTON . . .

Arab Area Seeking Stability, Direction

By PETER EDSON
Washington Correspondent
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

WASHINGTON (NEA) — While the new United Arab Republic of Egypt, Iraq and Syria is of immediate concern to the Near East, it has a longer range interest for the whole Arab world.

The entire area from Morocco to the Persian Gulf is now in a state of ferment and growth. No one can foretell whether it will explode into many little wars or even a big one.

It might emerge more or less peacefully into a new Pan-Arab force the rest of the world will have to appraise anew.

When the phrase "Arab world" is used, it means all people who speak Arabic and are Mohammedans. There are from 80 to 85 million of them.

The new U.A.R. will have 45 million—28 million in Egypt, 12 million in Iraq, five million in Syria.

Other Arab countries east of the Suez Canal have a total population of from 12 to 15 million. Saudi Arabia has seven million, Yemen perhaps three million, Lebanon a million and a half, Jordan under a million, Kuwait 250,000.

The Federation of Southern Arabian States—Aden, Oman, Muscat and 25 other sultanates the British protectors are trying to put together—may have a total population of only 600,000. But they have a place in any redrawing of the Arab world map.

In North Africa west of Egypt are 22 million Arabs. Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco are the big units. But northern Sudan is Arabic, as are Mali, Spanish Sahara and Mauritania.

The Arab world has no idea where it is going collectively. Nor do its individual members know their own future.

There are loose alliances everywhere. The 13 principal Arab countries — 11 if you now count the U.A.R. as one—are joined in an Arab League. It is a regional organization patterned after the Organization of American States and having similar defects and weaknesses.

Egypt is the principal power in the Arab League and its main support. The Voice of Cairo dominates the Arab world airwaves and the transistor radio is the alarm clock that awakens the giant.

The Casablanca Group, in which the King Hassan II of Morocco is prime mover for "Magreb" or western unity, includes also Alge-

ria, Tunisia, Ghana, Guinea and Mali.

There are also larger, Inter-African and Malagasy organizations of former French and British colonies. They wrote a charter last December but are still in the negotiating stage.

The United States would like to have Britain and France play the largest possible role in the development of Africa, since American aid can't do it all.

Still, U.S. aid to Arab world countries has totaled \$2 billion since 1945—\$100 million of it military assistance to Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Tunisia. This does not include the cost of U.S. bases in Morocco, which will be evacuated at the end of 1963.

The kingdom of Libya, which could have the most viable economy in the Arab world, is still an uncertain quantity.

Old King Idris I, a former Arab Emir whose family has ruled East Libya for 200 years, was overthrown with British help in 1951.

Egypt has long hoped that this eastern half eventually will join U.A.R. Tunisia has hopes it might form a union with western Libya.

In 1955 Libya granted oil concessions to one French, two British and three American companies. They have developed rich producing fields. But Libya has not used its oil revenues wisely. It has no development plan, no drive, no leadership.

Principal American interest in Libya is Wheelus Field, where NATO pilots can train year-round in perfect flying weather. There is no pressure from the Libyans to have this field evacuated. Wheelus was the main staging area for U.N. operations in the Congo.

On top of all the purely Arabian political rivalries and alliances, there is a large movement for more African unity. Thirty two heads of African nations have now accepted invitations to attend a Pan-African organization meeting in Addis Ababa May 23.

What might come out of this meeting in the way of a charter for permanent organization cannot be predicted.

One of its most useful purposes could be to offset a Communist-organized Afro-Asian solidarity conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, last February.

Its principal development was a Russia-Red China clash, and that points up the most disturbing element to watch in African evolution—the ever present threat of Communist agitation and infiltration.