Herald and News

Editorial Page

Nondefense Spending Real Villain

What's the cause of the present national debt, the further increase in that debt that is certain to occur this year, and the present level of taxation?

This is not so simple-minded a question as it may seem. A common answer is to attribute it to the cost of national defense, in an era when weapons are almost unbelievably expensive. And it is true that national defense accounts for roughly half of the total federal budget, and is still on the upswing.

But proportionately, defense has not been the principal villain of the play. Since 1952 defense spending has risen 26 per cent, or $11 billion a year. But nondefense spending, in the same period, has risen 104 per cent, or $22 billion a year, precisely twice as much in dollar terms.

Moreover, federal spending for nondefense purposes, which are in prospect, will rise on a wide variety of fronts. A partial list includes land, water and power projects; recreational facilities; fish and wildlife programs; urban renewal; public housing; rural electrification and telephone loans. And this is by no means the end.

Public assistance will run to $3 billion next year, as against $2 billion in 1960 — a jump of precisely 50 per cent. It will cost more, so far as one can see now, to support Congress, the judiciary, the Internal Revenue Service, veteran's services — in sum, just about everything the government does, plans to do, and wants to do. Areas where cost reductions are planned are almost as scarce as hen's teeth, and that is the basic problem that surrounds Mr. Kennedy's mired-down plan for tax reductions.

It is the most obvious of truisms to say that all of us would like to pay less in taxes. Yet the administration program has not found the response that was anticipated, either within or without Congress.

The "Why" of that is not difficult to discover. For one thing, some of the changes in tax policy — the alleged "reforms" — that are part of the package have met with the stiffest kind of opposition. There has been determined objection to the proposal that tax deductions for such costs as mortgage interest and contributions to charity be strictly limited.

On a broader base than this, tabulations show that the proposed cuts in individual income taxes would amount to relatively little for the average family. There is a feeling, in major business circles that a tax program which would substantially spur the economy must be more favorable in its attitude toward the investment community.

On a still broader base, there is a fear that tax cuts without reductions in government spending would be dangerous and unsound. And there is the real rub.

Patient Diplomacy

(Pasadena Star-News)

Many intelligent newspaper readers who cultivate an enlightened interest in world affairs often do not read very far down, we suspect, into stories on negotiations with the Soviet Union on such matters as a ban on nuclear testing or disarmament in general.

They are discouraged from detailed perusal of such accounts, no doubt, by the prevalence of such statements:

"The participants said later that the exchange of views had been useful."

"Talks apparently will continue despite the lack of progress."

"The (fill in) dispute will enter its —th year next with the two sides still talking and still deadlocked."

"But this will be an exercise in subtleties, for the formal Soviet position has not changed."

"Soviet intentions at this stage are the subject of continuing speculation, but the White House door will remain open for further discussions."

"Moscow was informed that it had offered an unacceptable proposal."

"There is no desire to arouse false hopes at this time, but every effort will be made to keep the channels of communication clear."

The talks drone on, but useful progress seems to be unheard of. Nevertheless, we are full of admiration, and even incredulity, for the patience of the diplomats who keep going over the same old ground. . . . We may conclude that they also serve who only sit and orate.

IN WASHINGTON . . .

McNamara's Ideas Poor

By RALPH de TOLEDANO

It is Defense Secretary McNamara's unfortunate conviction that if Congress understood his aims, he would not be involved in his present difficulties. But it is precisely because men on Capitol Hill, who have a wide knowledge of military matters, realize where Mr. McNamara is going that he has run into so much trouble.

The superficial debate may be over the TFX contract or the cancellation of the Skybolt missile or the Administration's refusal to use appropriated funds to develop a B-70 bomber. But beyond and behind this, there is real opposition and great concern over Secretary McNamara's concept of how the Pentagon should be run.

What Mr. McNamara would like to impose on our military system is an American modification of the German General Staff system. This would mean a single High Command instead of three competing services. Already, Secretary McNamara has begun the downgrading of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the liquidation of the Air Force, and the reduction of the Navy to a kind of marine and submarine artillery.

The argument advanced for this total "unification" is one of "economy." But this, to any military expert (in or out of uniform), is nonsense. The only economy one can achieve in defense matters is to make sure that the services get a dollar's worth of military hardware for every dollar spent—and in procurement, this Administration has been extremely lax in making sure that competitive bidding and contract enforcement squeeze waste out of costs.

It is, of course, true that "commonality" of weapons—the big justification for merging the services—would reduce defense spending. It is also true that the Ford Motor Company, Mr. McNamara's former business home, could save considerably on re-tooling, production costs, etc., by scrapping all but one of the models and makes of cars it manufactures. It would probably go out of business, too.

The U.S. Army undoubtedly saved a good many dollars by its suppression of the air power doctrines of General Billy Mitchell and its strangulation of what was then a subordinate flying corps. But in a period of national emergency, the nation had to start from scratch, at a far higher cost, and the experience of World War II showed that American air power had to be lodged in a separate service if it was to operate effectively.

Secretary McNamara objects because "each of the three services has a different concept of what kind of wars we should be prepared to fight." He wants it all neatly tied up into one package, "one defense policy." That the Soviet Union or any other enemy might not agree with that "one defense policy" does not seem to enter Mr. McNamara's mind.

The German General Staff, in two wars, worked out a single military policy, guaranteed to bring victory quickly and efficiently before Allied economic might and manpower preponderance could be brought into play. On paper it was all very tidy — and had the Kaiser or the Fuehrer been able to use the as-yet uninvented computer, the plans would have been tidier still.

But warfare is not an exact science. All the mathematical calisthenics of the bright young men who now dominate the Pentagon can be meaningless—if only because the one great variable in the equation remains unknown, namely what the nature of future military conflict will be. In the long run, it will be the decisions of the men in command and the flexibility of our weapons systems which will determine the course of any war to come.

It is the rivalry of the three services and the differences in concept among them which gives the U.S. armed services their flexibility. And it is the men in uniform who make the command decisions. Secretary McNamara has already compromised that flexibility. And he has steadily reduced our generals and admirals to the status of messenger boys.

No one questions the priority of civilian over military authority in the running of the Defense Establishment. But in the past, the civilian authority has operated according to rules set down by experience and Congressional mandate. With the best of intentions, Mr. McNamara is scrapping all of his.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—How smart is a porpoise?

A—They are far more intelligent than fish and more so than many kinds of mammals. Their intelligence is higher than a dog's and possibly equal to a chimpanzee's.

Q—Which is the largest cut diamond in the world?

A—The Cullinan I, called the Great Star of Africa with a weight of 530.20 carats. It is in the collection of Britain's crown jewels.

Q—How strong are gale winds?

A—Winds from 32 to 38 miles per hour are classed as near gale, from 39 to 46 as gale, from 47 to 54 as strong gale.

Q—In reference to the moon what is meant by perigee and apogee?

A—Each month the moon is said to be in perigee when nearest to earth and in apogee when farthest away.

Q—What type of plants are called halophytes?

A—Those which can grow in salty soil where most plants die. Examples are asparagus and mangrove.

EDSON IN WASHINGTON . . .

Laos Proves Reds Won't Keep Promises

By PETER EDSON
Washington Correspondent
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

WASHINGTON (NEA) — Resumption of civil war in Laos will give a lot of people another chance to say "We told you so."

The moral is that it's impossible to make a deal with the Russians or any other Communists with any expectation they will keep their promises.

So why did the U.S. get booby-trapped?

It may be granted that almost a year's relative peace in Laos has been gained since the cease-fire and the Geneva accord guaranteeing neutrality went into effect and U.S. military advisers were withdrawn. This, however, is not the whole case on which American policy on Laos is built.

When President Kennedy took office, he had three choices on Laos.

The first was to abandon the country and let the Communists take it over.

The second was military intervention in which U.S. troops would take part in a long and difficult jungle and mountain guerrilla action to drive the Reds out of Laos.

The United States was already involved in military support of South Viet Nam against Communist infiltration from North Viet Nam. This operation is still far from successful.

That left only the third alternative, which was to seek a political solution.

And when Russia's Nikita Khrushchev agreed with Kennedy at their Vienna meeting that Laos should be a neutral, independent country, it looked like an out. It was a risk. But it was worth taking—to gain time if no more.

Roving Ambassador Averell Harriman was assigned to the job. After 15 months of negotiations, the Geneva accord guaranteeing the neutrality of Laos was signed by 14 free world, Communist and neutral nations on July 23, 1962.

But now, as Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, Harriman has had to return to Europe to try to salvage Laotian neutrality.

Russia and the United States blame each other for the breakdown.

The chain of events leading up to the new crisis apparently began when Prince Souphanouvong's Pathet Lao Communists in northern Laos attempted to take over the neutralist forces of his half-brother, Premier Prince Souvanna Phouma.

Col. Ketsana Vongsonavanh, commander of neutralist forces in the central Plain of Jars, was murdered in February after he had ordered arrest of Pathet Lao supporters, who had shot down a U.S. foreign aid supply plane, killing four Americans. Pathet Lao prevented the arrests.

All this year there has been intermittent raiding by the Pathet Lao against neutralist forces in the Plain of Jars. Reports indicate that fewer than 100 men are involved in each of these forays. But they have the impact of major battles.

The Pathet Lao are believed to number about 20,000 troops plus an unknown number of North Vietnamese who, in violation of the Geneva accord, were not withdrawn after the coalition government was set up.

Neutralist forces are supposed to number only about 2,500 under U.S. Army-trained Captain (now General) Kong Le. He had led a revolt against loyalist forces under Prince Phoumi Nosavan, a former premier with pro-western sympathies.

His army of about 60,000 men is still in the rich and most populous Mekong valley area of southern Laos. They have not been demobilized because there has been no move for unification of the three armed forces under the coalition.

If Undersecretary Harriman's diplomacy in Europe fails to effect a peaceful solution of the new Laotian crisis and a military solution seems inevitable, General Phoumi's army is an ace in the hole for the West.

U.S. troops have now been ordered to Thailand. The U.S. Seventh Fleet has been ordered to the Gulf of Siam.

This puts the situation right back where it was when the Geneva Accord negotiations began.

Letters To The Editor

Hopeful

Being one of the many citizens looking on the community with renewed hope for future advancement as a result of the successful hospital drive, I hope our school situation can be solved with equal success.

As a community, we realize that only with adequate hospital and educational opportunities can we hope to attract large industries to choose our locale.

I read with dismay the bigoted thinking expressed by a future candidate for the school board. His expressed opinions inferred that by retreating instead of moving forward would we solve our problems. I fail to see how the elimination of self-supported extracurricular sports will alleviate the crowded classroom or could come under the heading of expensive entertainment.

On the contrary, thinking on the national level stresses more emphasis on activities that embrace a larger number of participants. Physical fitness and character building are the proven results.

I admit a strong personal aversion to his remarks on skiing. My son, a 1960 graduate of KUHS, found upon entering an out of state university that a majority of competitive skiers are from high schools with a strong four-year training program. Recognizing the lag of such a program in this state, our two universities have started, this year, to render a small amount of support to their ski teams.

I would like to quote a paragraph from the Oregon State University paper in regard to a February ski meet that involved 24 college teams consisting of 125 of the Northwest's best competitive skiers.

"Oregon State's impressive demonstration of raw potential demands an opportunity for future development. Over 10 million Americans have made skiing one of the fastest growing participant sports in the United States. Oregon State cannot afford to pass up this opportunity for representation."

The local ski club activities at Klamath Union High School have been entirely self-supporting. Such unsubstantiated remarks by our misinformed candidate can only prove detrimental to their efforts.

Surely we can afford to support our school budget and attempt to move forward in our thinking in order to provide our children with the same opportunities enjoyed in other communities.

Mrs. W. B. Schmidt,
2071 Lakeshore Drive.

Hair Curler

For those of us who do not get a chance to visit the local beauty parlor as much as we should, required reading some evening soon is Senate Bill No. 129. This bill contains paragraphs which will curl your hair.

Those sage predictors at the public hearings on zoning in January, who testified "these ordinances and laws will get more restrictive and dictatorial" are now batting 1000. And so soon!

The only consolation I have from reading S.B. 129 is that the power is concentrated here at home, where I can at least exert my protest and vote—maybe. Is this going to be enough?

I resent that dedicated group of citizens on the local, state and national level known as the "organization for the dismantling and disposal of rights." But no more! My solemn vow for 1963-1964 is to enlighten myself on local issues.

My days of being protected, coddled and slightly confused by this dedicated group are over. The price has been too high. I will make my presence known and I will step up and vote!

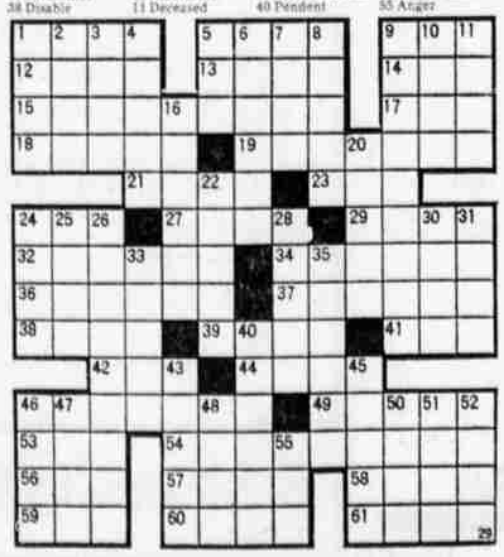
Juanita Kline,
2106 Madison St.

Hodgepodge

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS
1 Degenerate in idleness
5 "Pearl of the Antilles"
9 Insane
12 Passage in the brain
13 Individuals
14 Hail!
15 Supreme
17 Pasture
18 Protective foliage
19 Manager
21 Mr. Gardner
23 Disencumber
24 Musical direction
27 Deities
29 Let fall
32 Fastened
34 Interstice
36 Guarantee
37 Diversities
38 Disable
39 Pace
41 Small child
42 Convulsive sigh
44 Mine entrance
46 Housekeepers
49 Waltz
53 Age
54 Opponents
56 Noise
57 Always
58 Border on
59 Consume
60 Remove
61 Flower

DOWN
1 Tears
2 Western state
3 Curds of whey
4 Barter
5 Dove's call
6 New
7 Twisted
8 Fall flower
9 Awkward
10 Asseverate
11 Deceased
16 Absorption
20 Broader
22 Mineral veins
24 Slender
25 Sumatran squirrel shrew
26 Helper
28 Rescind
30 Broad spread
31 Nuisance
33 Caprice
35 River currents
40 Pendent
43 Perforated
43 Turkic tribesman
46 Native of Media
47 Operatic solo
48 Firm
50 Biblical mountain
51 Shank
52 Royal Italian family name
55 Anger



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—How old is the verse beginning "Thirty days hath September, April, June, and November?"

A—The origin of the verse is lost in antiquity. The year 1570 marks its first appearance in English literature when Richard Grafton included it in an almanac.

Q—What was the era of "shirt-sleeve diplomacy?"

A—Prior to World War I, Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, the "Great Commoner," dispensed with traditional formalities.

Q—Is the President Commander-in-Chief of the Coast Guard?

A—Only in time of war.

Q—Did human life evolve on the American continent?

A — There is no evidence of this.

Q—What date has been proposed as a new federal legal holiday?

A—Sept. 17, to be known as "Constitution Day."

STRICTLY PERSONAL

By SYDNEY J. HARRIS

"Whenever I see or hear the word 'spiritual,' it makes me grit my teeth," said a friend of mine, who teaches philosophy in a nearby college. "It's become the favorite word of people who don't even understand what it means."

I quite agreed with him. The word "spiritual," used in its popular sense, has come to mean the opposite of "physical." Anything that is "spiritual" is good, is positive, is virtuous, is desirable, is loftier than the merely physical.

This is not only nonsense—it is dangerous nonsense. Just as physical things can be either good or bad, so spiritual things can be either good or bad. The word itself is quite neutral, and has no intrinsic value.

Indeed, as C. S. Lewis pointed out in his book, "Christian Behavior," some years ago: "The sins of the flesh are bad, but they are the least bad of all sins. All the worst pleasures are purely spiritual: the pleasure of putting other people in the wrong, of bossing and patronizing and spoiling sport, and back-biting; the pleasures of power, of hatred."

Most of the evil in the world has been generated on the spiritual level: a power-driven and hate-obsessed man like Hitler had no interest in physical pursuits; he was as abstemious as a monk, and as dedicated to the diabolic (which is a spiritual thing) as the monk is to the divine.

The people who create the mischief and the sorrow in the world are not the libertines and the drinkers and the wastrels; they are pathetic people who create, at the most, private tragedy. The vast public tragedies are created by the men who are dominated by some perverse spiritual drive—by pride, by anger, by hostility, by envy.

True spirituality is as rare as true bestiality in human beings. And those few who achieve it are those who are terribly aware of the perils of spirituality — who know, as the Romans warned us, that a corruption of the best becomes the worst. Which is why, to quote Lewis again, "Of all bad men, the bad religious man is the worst."

Unlike most other religions, both Judaism and Christianity accept the goodness of physical things, and do not dismiss them as delusions or devices of the devil. And those who despise the physical too often use their "spirituality" as a bludgeon for punishing the weak, while they themselves revel in the pleasures of pride, of power, of exactly those "spiritual" qualities that define the nature of their enemy, the devil.

Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Monday, April 29, the 119th day of 1963 with 246 more to follow.

The moon is approaching its first quarter.

The morning stars are Venus and Saturn.

The evening stars are Mercury and Mars.

On this day in history:

In 1862, New Orleans, gateway to the Mississippi River and once a stronghold of the Confederacy, fell to Union forces.

In 1913, Gideon Sundback of Hoboken, N.J., was granted a patent for the "zipper."

In 1945, American soldiers liberated 32,000 Nazi prisoners at Dachau, the oldest and worst of the Nazi concentration camps.

In 1945, the bodies of Italian dictator Mussolini and his companions, executed by partisans the day before, were hung in a public square of Milan.

BERRY'S WORLD

"According to Ben Casey, I've got a rare disease found only in aborigines' children under the age of three."