

Editorial Page

A Look At A Bargain

(The AMA News)

The King-Anderson bill has been described by Nelson H. Cruikshank, director of the AFL-CIO's social security department, as the "best bargain" working people can get. It is always a good idea to take a second look at bargain merchandise.

For the 18 million persons who will be 65 in 1965, the King-Anderson bill may seem to be the bargain of their lives. They will have contributed nothing to the hospitalization fund and they will extract benefits estimated at \$35 billion. Most of these people will, on second thought, realize that their bargain must become a burden for their heirs.

The working man must pay this \$35 billion bill. He must also pay for his own health care and he must contribute enough in rising taxes to keep the Social Security System functioning. Bargain hunters should note that the trust fund is already committed to more than \$300 billion to meet obligations to all covered by the program since it began.

The "bargain" offered by the King-Anderson bill involves 1/4 of 1 per cent increase in social security taxes for employees and employers, plus an increase in the tax base from \$4,800 to \$5,200. This amounts to a 16 per cent rise with the man who makes \$5,200 paying as much as the man who makes \$50,000. With the social security increase that became effective Jan. 1, plus the proposed health care increase, employees and employers would be paying 40 per cent more than they paid in 1961. With further automatic increases already in the law, they would be paying 76 per cent more by 1968.

Those who support the King-Anderson bill are counting on further increases in the social security tax, not only to keep the program going but to provide expanded benefits in future election years. Wilbur J. Cohen, assistant secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, has said the system is sound "as long as it operates under a plan of financing which is designed to provide income sufficient to meet all benefit costs as they fall due" —

that is as long as Congress is willing to raise taxes. In 1961 Cohen told Congress that he advocated raising the taxable wage base to \$9,000 a year by 1970, and Cruikshank has also suggested \$9,000 as a likely figure.

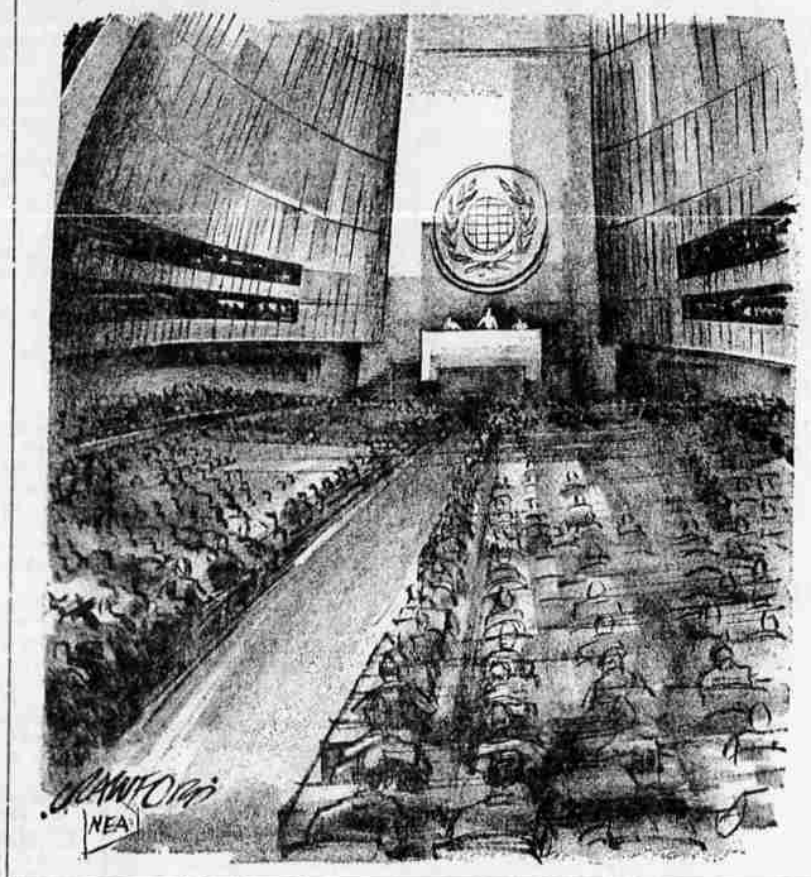
Future generations may very well consider this compulsory blue-sky financing a bad bargain. Today's younger people are already being shortchanged. At the present time the young person and his employer are paying \$177 for every \$100 worth of social security benefits to be received. Under the proposed King-Anderson bill, the young employee earning \$5,200 a year and his employer would pay about \$400 for every \$100 worth of hospitalization benefits to be received at retirement.

Most Americans do not object to paying taxes which are necessary to assist people who need help, regardless of age, but most will find it hard to understand why they should pay unlimited taxes to provide a windfall for millions of people who are self-supporting or well-to-do. Working people have reason to wonder why labor leaders are recommending a bargain that promises a return of 25 cents for each dollar and places increasing pressure on employers. The rising expense to employers, who must match employees' payments, does not augur well for future salaries, fringe benefits, prices and perhaps even jobs.

Millions of persons are relying on the Social Security System for some support in their retirement years. Before they buy the King-Anderson "bargain" they should ask themselves who is going to pay the bill. They should, with Rep. M. R. Snyder of Kentucky, "pause and reflect on the fact that the social security fund went \$1,248 million deeper into the red in the last fiscal year." They should consider the warning of Sen. Harry F. Byrd:

"I am opposed to . . . compulsory medical service and hospitalization under the Social Security System. I am convinced this would lead to socialized medicine with the possibility that it would bankrupt the social security trust fund."

"The First Order of Business—the Secretary General Will Pass the Hat"



STRICTLY PERSONAL

By SYDNEY J. HARRIS

In any discussion of world problems and man's fate, somebody sooner or later is bound to proclaim, with sweet smugness, "Well, if we only would obey the Decalogue, everything would be fine. After all, the Ten Commandments are still the best rules to follow."

Yet, if we took such a man seriously and questioned him on only one of the Ten Commandments, and perhaps the most important, what would be the result?

"Thou shalt not kill." A plain, flat statement, without qualification or modification. What does our friend of the Decalogue say to this? Does he accept it, completely and unequivocally? Or does he try to get around it in one way or another?

First of all, he will say that we have a "right" to kill in self-defense—even though the Decalogue does not say, "Thou shalt not kill, except in self-defense." Then he will say that society has a right to kill offenders, if their offense is deemed grievous enough—even though the first killer, Cain, was not executed by God but was branded and sent into exile.

Next, he will insist that a nation has the "right" to kill enemies in time of war; he may deplore such a necessity (and generals are the greatest deplores of all), but he does not doubt that the Lord is on the side of the "just" nation. He will also point to many

Old Testament passages which seem to confirm his position.

So, finally, what does the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," amount to? It amounts to what ever we want to make it. Nobody but a "crank" takes the commandment literally; nearly everybody believes that under certain conditions it is right and proper to kill. Hardly anyone except Socrates, Jesus and a few saints has ever truly believed that it is better to suffer pain than to inflict it.

The trouble with the Ten Commandments is not that unbelievers flout it; it is that even "believers" do not believe it, do not agree on it, do not act on it. A simple sentence of four one-syllable words, "Thou shalt not kill," has confounded Christendom for two thousand years—for the bloodiest wars of all have been religious wars.

Of course, "everything would be fine" if we followed the Ten Commandments. It is not even that we try to follow them and fail—it is that, confronted with these four plain words, we interpret them as we want to, for we have made our own Eleventh Commandment: "Thou shalt follow the Decalogue only until it hurts."

QUESTIONS

AND

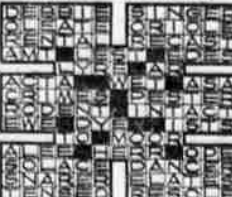
ANSWERS

Q—How many elements were known in ancient times?
A—Ten.

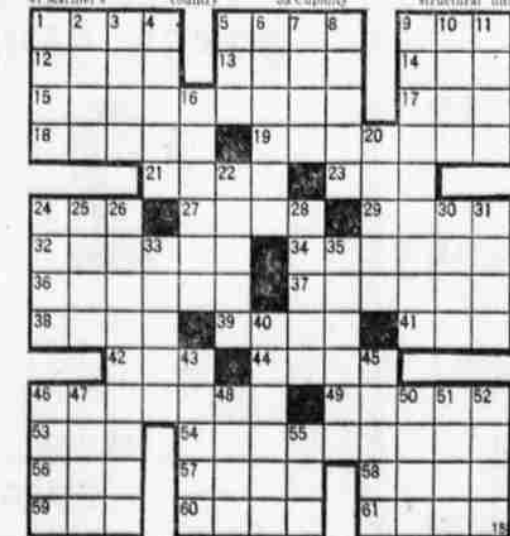
Animal Life

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 One of three for Goldilocks | 42 Month (ah) |
| 5 Young horse | 44 Employee |
| 9 Jan. for instance | 46 Scholar |
| 12 Feminine appellation | 49 Brazilian seaport |
| 13 Hange | 53 Rocky pinnacle |
| 14 Mumble | 54 Nonconductor |
| 15 Pitch men | 56 Band |
| 17 Vehicle | 57 Angered |
| 18 Gastronomic mollusk | 58 Son of Seth |
| 19 Medical term | 59 Terms of cattle |
| 21 Clock face | 60 Land parcel |
| 23 Age | 61 Sutures |
| 24 Hope's kin | 1 Bug larvae |
| 27 Require | 2 Order |
| 28 Aftersh | 3 Site of Taj Mahal |
| 32 Boat | 4 Valiant |
| 34 Undertake | 5 Taxi |
| 36 Exaggerate | 6 Bird |
| 37 Prigly water | 7 Dregs |
| 38 Inadequate | 8 Sample |
| 41 Mariner's | 9 Palm fruits |
| | 10 Ancient country |

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 11 Irish Free State parish | 35 End-shaped amphibians |
| 16 Arranged | 40 Start |
| 20 Expunge | 43 Hazard |
| 22 Fabulist | 45 Gluta |
| 24 Greek coin | 46 Pierce |
| 25 Salvage | 47 Bull (sp.) |
| 26 Nomenclature | 48 Deep near Guam |
| 28 Sets into groove (var.) | 50 Prong |
| 30 Dutch uncle | 51 Confess |
| 31 Existed | 52 Fewer |
| 33 Cupidity | 53 Hypothetical structural unit |



WASHINGTON NOTEBOOK

Easy Lesson In How To Get Ahead!

By WASHINGTON STAFF

Newspaper Enterprise Assn. Attorney General Robert Kennedy was giving a speech at the University of South Carolina. A student asked him how to get ahead at the Department of Justice. Said Kennedy, "Well, I started at \$4,300 a year, worked hard, stayed late at night, was loyal — and picked the right brother."

Through a misunderstanding, director Sargent Shriver Jr. showed up in a tuxedo at the white House dinner for 150 guests honoring the Grand Duchess Charlotte of Luxembourg and her son, Prince Jean. It was all the more embarrassing because Mrs. Shriver, President Kennedy's sister, was sitting at the official hostess for First Lady Jacqueline.

But the resourceful Shriver got out of his social blunder neatly. "We're not so formal in the Peace Corps," he said. "We don't approve of white tie and tails."

When Nelson Rockefeller was introduced at the American Newspaper Publishers' Bureau of Advertising dinner in New York, Jack Tarver, Atlanta Constitution president, declared they were all proud to welcome the illustrious New York governor. "Particularly our wives, who are most interested in his coming announcement."

"We've had distinguished guests of honor before," Tarver continued. "We've had Gov. Rockefeller before, and I remember Wendell Wilkie, Tom Dewey and Dick Nixon."

"Our Bureau of Advertising has done a meticulous research job on Gov. Rockefeller for this occasion, building up a file on him exceeded only by those of Attorney General Robert Kennedy and Chairman Manny Celler of the House Judiciary Committee (who is investigating ANPA)."

"And now I give you the former assistant secretary of state, the former undersecretary of health, education and welfare, the present governor of New York and your next — long pause for dramatic effect — speaker of the evening."

James W. Symington, administrative assistant to the attorney general, has decided to leave the Department of Justice and go into private practice. As he was being toasted and congratulated by his colleagues, Symington said, "I feel a little like Bob Hope when he landed in Moscow. He told them he was grateful for the 21-gun salute but wished they had waited until he had got on the ground."

Gov. George Romney of Michigan wowed the U.S. Chamber of Commerce annual meeting with a tip shortin' speech again the government, but did admit "there has been some improvement," in Washington in the last 40 years. When his father-in-law, Harold LaFont, was appointed to the

EDSON IN WASHINGTON . . .



Failure Threatens UMW Hospital Plan

By PETER EDSON
Washington Correspondent
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.
WASHINGTON (NEA) — There is a great national lesson and a moral some place—if anybody can figure out what and where—in the announcement that the United Presbyterian Church Board of National Missions is considering a takeover of 10 hospitals in Kentucky and the Virginias, built by United Mine Workers Welfare and Retirement Fund.

Miners Memorial Hospital Assn., which has been operating the hospitals since 1956, has announced that it will have to close four of the hospitals July 1, the others by Oct. 1 because it is no longer financially able to keep them going.

This has caused a great protest in the tri-state coal area. There have been threats of violence and fears of bombings. The Appalachian mountain people who never had decent medical care before want them kept open. There is no doubt they are needed.

The story of these hospitals is something of an American classic in human understanding. At the end of World War II United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis inspired a survey of health and medical care throughout the area. It was conducted by the U.S. Coal Mines Administration with Rear Adm. Joel T. Boone, retired Navy surgeon general in charge.

The survey revealed scandalous conditions. No modern hospitals, not enough doctors, fewer dentists, terrible infant mortality, midwives for obstetricians, bad nursing service, high disease and death rates, inadequate first aid services at the mines.

Lewis then took characteristic action. He decided to have the hospitals built by his union. Using welfare and retirement funds being built up by royalties of five cents a ton at first—now 40 cents a ton—paid by coal operators with which the union had contracts, ten 100-bed hospitals were built.

They were planned to cost \$10 million in all. They ended up costing \$27 million, but they were the last word in everything, including medical staff and service. UMW's welfare fund agreed to pay \$35 a day flat rate for every hospitalized miner and members of his family, but that covered everything. Facilities were also open to

all members of the communities. Lewis had enough confidence in the coal industry to believe that his investment would pay out, but here he may have made a miscalculation that turns his monument into a cross.

U.S. coal production has dropped from 500 million tons in 1956 to 400 million tons in 1962. Mechanization of the big mines closed down production of marginal mines.

More coal now is produced by 150,000 miners than used to be produced by 300,000 miners.

There are 150,000 unemployed miners today. Many former union mineworkers now work for below scale wages at non-union wagon mines which account for a fourth of today's production.

The UMW welfare and retirement fund has come upon leaner days with these developments. The \$100 a month pensions promised to union miners on retirement at age 60 has been cut to \$75. And the fund no longer is able to subsidize the hospitals.

No figures are given on operation costs for the 10 hospitals, but \$750,000 a year losses are mentioned unofficially.

So the hospitals will be closed—the patients locked out—unless some new formula can be found to keep them going in what now are depressed areas.

The Presbyterian Church Mission has stepped into the situation to see what can be saved. No deal has been closed, no figures mentioned.

The Presbyterians don't have \$27 million or even \$20 million to buy the hospitals, and don't want to buy them. The principal aim is to keep them open until a permanent operator can be found, mobilizing local resources.

Some help may come from the U.S. government's Area Redevelopment Administration under a section of the ARA Act which authorizes grants to improve opportunities in local rehabilitation areas.

Gov. Bert T. Combs of Kentucky says he will call a special session of the state legislature if that will facilitate continued operation of the hospitals.

Two broad generalizations may be made on the whole situation. Something is wrong with an economy in which this can happen. Something is wrong with health care planning. Both need fixing.

WASHINGTON REPORT . . .



Hungarian Policy Undergoes Change

By FULTON LEWIS JR.

As a candidate for the nation's highest office, John Fitzgerald Kennedy deplored the "ugly brutality" of Soviet troops who crushed the Hungarian revolution. He pledged to those behind the Iron Curtain that his Administration would not forget their desperate fight for freedom.

Six years after blood ran in the streets of Budapest, two years after he won the Presidency, John Kennedy has quietly altered American policy on Hungary.

From 1956 to 1962, it was official policy to boycott the Hungarian United Nations' delegation. "We took the position that they did not represent the Hungarian people," says Francis Carpenter, press secretary for the U.S. delegation. "We refused to attend any of their diplomatic affairs. We invited them to none of ours."

Now all that is changed. Without public announcement, this policy of "disengagement" was a dropped one day last fall. American and Hungarian envoys began to mingle socially.

And Lyndon Baines Johnson has done his part to forget Budapest by lying out the red carpet for Karoly Castorday, Hungarian ambassador to the world body.

Comrade Castorday was one of 25 U.N. diplomats feted at LBJ's Texas ranch a fortnight ago. Along with Communist envoys from Rumania and Bulgaria and "uncommitted" delegates from Uganda, Nigeria and Somalia.

old Federal Radio Commission in the 1920s. Romney related that "anybody who left home became a celebrity." LaFont was so impressed by his new job that when he got to Washington he called at the White House to thank President Coolidge personally.

The White House appointment secretary received him but said that if he wanted to see the President, he'd have to get a morning coat and striped trousers. At a cost of \$175 LaFont got the formal attire and showed up for the ceremony. He was ushered into the Oval Room. The President was writing at his desk. After a wait to be recognized, the new official made his brief speech of thanks for the home bestowed upon him. Then President Coolidge looked up and said, "When in doubt, read the law. Good morning."

Secretary General U. Thant, a confirmed "neutralist," was asked to keep an eye on Hungary. He did by canceling the U.N. news broadcasts that were often the only non-Communist words that Hungarians ever heard.

IN WASHINGTON . . .

Admiral Anderson Fired



By RALPH de TOLEDANO

When the White House abruptly announced that Admiral George Anderson would not be retained as Chief of Naval Operations, the news came as a shock to many — even in these shock-ridden times. The admiral was not a "controversial" man, he was admired by the press, and he had the respect of his peers.

But those who have some knowledge of what has been going on in the Pentagon and at the White House were not surprised. For Admiral Anderson is a deeply sincere person. As a public spokesman for the Navy, he has always followed the correct line of stating Administration policy. But he has felt that within the framework of civilian control of the military, the Joint Chiefs of Staff must speak up plainly when consulted by the President, the Secretary of Defense, or the service secretaries. And he has done so, much to the annoyance of Presidential advisers.

He has not been unique in this. Since Mr. McNamara began making messenger boys of our military leaders, the Joint Chiefs

have struggled to be heard above the whirr of the computers and the whizzing of the whiz kids. It is the duty of the Joint Chiefs to place their long experience at the disposal of the civilian leaders. It is the duty of the civilian leaders to consult the Joint Chiefs. But in instance after instance, major military policy decisions were made without so much as a word being said to those entrusted with the nation's defense.

The Joint Chiefs have therefore done what they could, without creating public controversy, to make their views known to the President. And this has irritated Secretary McNamara mightily. As a consequence, he has yearned for the day when he might surround himself with more docile military leaders. General Lemnitzer was kicked upstairs to take over the NATO command in Paris — where he could not be in Mr. McNamara's hair or confide his troubles to Congressional friends. General Curtis LeMay has been retained for a half-term as Air Force Chief of Staff. There would have been too much hubbub in the Senate

had he been poleaxed like Admiral Anderson. The whiz kids, however, had gotten very tired of his battle to save the Strategic Air Command from the extinction the computers have decreed. Admiral Anderson, of course, fought against the contemplated liquidation of the U.S. Navy. He did not believe that it should be reduced to the status of underwater artillery. And he insisted that the Navy has and will continue to have an important part in the defense position of the United States. But where he really infuriated the White House was in the discussions of Cuba. Long before the President suddenly decided to "quarantine" (well, sort of) the Castro Communist regime, Admiral Anderson was warning of the dangerous, military buildup in Cuba. He was ignored, but he continued to press for some kind of policy, for a halt to the Administration's drift-and-wait attitude.

In the debate at the Pentagon and the White House prior to Mr. Kennedy's October 22 speech, Admiral Anderson took a position which subsequent events have fully justified. He argued that any halfway measures would be of little value, that if we were to take the risk of action we should clean up the job at one sweep, that failure to do so would lead to protracted negotiations in which the U.S. would lose out.

It is reported that when one group of the President's advisers urged that the matter be turned over to the United Nations, Admiral Anderson said that if it were he would resign and take his case to the people. This story may or may not be true. I do not have it first hand. There is no doubt, however, that he made enemies in arguing energetically for quick surgery to cut out the Castro cancer.

It is being said that Admiral Anderson was relieved as CNO because of his testimony in the TFX affair. But there were others at the Pentagon who answered truthfully the questions put to them by the Senate Permanent Investigations subcommittee. Secretary McNamara could have gotten no comfort from any of this testimony, and the White House was not exactly happy at seeing the Defense Department's dirty linen washed in public. But before then, Admiral Anderson was slated to go. It is sad to see so able an officer in effect demoted for doing his duty.

BERRY'S WORLD



"One of the governors wants to know how much he could raise state taxes if the tax cut bill goes through."