Herald and News

Editorial Page

No More Red Tape Needed

A modern supermarket contains as many as 8,000 different items. They come in all colors, shapes and sizes. Each producer of a similar or identical item naturally attempts to make his the most attractive to the shopper.

Inevitably, in such a situation, there have been occasional abuses — incomplete labeling, obscure statements, dubious information. And a result has been the proposal of an additional federal law imposing extremely rigid packaging and labeling regulations.

Various consumer groups and others, with the best intentions, support this movement. But there is more to it than meets the quick eye. According to informed observers, existing laws, properly enforced, can provide the consumer with completely adequate protections. These laws grant very broad powers to the interested government agencies to curb practices that are actually deceptive. Try enforcement instead of more red tape.

Beyond this, there is a danger that we may be underestimating the intelligence and perception of the American housewife. Once she feels she has been "had," she no longer buys that product. This is a corrective of the highest efficiency.

Finally, the proposed bill seems to be based on the philosophy that any and all faults in our system, real or alleged, must be met by federal action. The principal result this philosophy produces is an unbridled bureaucracy. The American consumer and citizen is not nearly so helpless nor so stupid as some people seem to think.

'One Man, One Vote' Can Be Silly

(Register - Guard, Eugene)

One of the older parlor games for the statistically minded is trying to chop Oregon into five congressional districts instead of four—against the day when we may have a fifth congressman. The state is just shaped wrong for an equitable distribution of our four seats, and that's what's behind Rep. John Mosser's proposal for reshuffling the counties into newly drawn congressional districts.

The Beaverton Republican has in mind the recent U.S. Supreme Court declaration about "one man, one vote." Oregon's districts now permit some citizens to have twice as loud a voice in U.S. affairs as citizens of another district. Edith Green of Portland represents 471,537 citizens, Al Ullman of Baker, 247,383. Here's what the districts look like now:

First, represented by Walter Norblad, 434,414 people in the 10 northwestern counties.

Second, represented by Mr. Ullman, 247,383 people, in the 18 counties east of the Cascades.

Third, represented by Mrs. Green, 471,537 people, in Multnomah County only.

Fourth, represented by Robert Duncan, 368,007 people, in the seven southwest Oregon counties, including Lane.

Mr. Mosser would redistribute the seats by dividing Portland along the Willamette River. He would set up these districts:

First, Douglas, Lane, Linn, Benton and Marion Counties, population 450,268.

Second, all the 18 counties now in the Eastern Oregon district, plus Josephine, Jackson, Coos and Curry in southwest Oregon, population 437,711.

Third, that part of Multnomah County east of the Willamette River, population 440,499.

Fourth, that part of Multnomah County west of the Willamette, plus Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, Polk, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill Counties, population about 440,000.

Now isn't that about as near the "one man, one vote" as any apportionment plan could get? It sure is. The trouble with it is that it doesn't make any sense. It sacrifices too much to the "one man, one vote" test newly set forth by the U.S. Supreme Court. And it presumes that the court will hold states firmly to this ideal, despite other considerations. It ignores the situation the court faced in the Georgia case. There the infamous "county unit system" was in force for no other reason than to keep the city folks, most of whom read and write, from dominating the government. Strong racial overtones were also present.

Those things are not true in the case of Oregon's present apportionment. Eastern Oregon is a small district, in population, but it just about has to be if we keep together a district with special problems. Under the Mosser plan Brookings in Curry County and Paradise in Wallowa County would be in the same district. The distance from one corner to the other would be 460 miles—as the crow flies. But people don't go by crow, they go by car. From Brookings to Paradise, via Eugene and Clear Lake, is 752 miles, some of them tough miles. The interests of the people of Coos Bay and the people of La Grande, or of the people of Medford and the people of Burns, are quite different.

And remember those 31,000 people on Portland's west side, who would be attached to a new district. Would they really be better off to throw in their lot with a congressman who also represented Newport and Astoria? Or would they be better off, numbers notwithstanding, to stay with other Portlanders in selecting a congressman who had only the one county to worry about?

"One man, one vote" is an appealing catch phrase. But it hardly seems reasonable that it should be imposed above all other considerations. And we can't believe that the Supreme Court ever meant that it be the primary consideration.

IN WASHINGTON . . .

New Frontier (II) Logic

By RALPH de TOLEDANO

Perhaps some day, a patient and slow-speaking economist will explain to me the logic of the Administration's fiscal policies. I was naive enough to understand most—thought not all—of the Eisenhower economic practices. But what Walter Heller of the Council of Economic Advisers and Douglas Dillon of the treasury have devised leaves me out in left field.

What prompts this small confession is a mild outburst by Representative Richard Poff (R., Va.). Mr. Poff has discovered that things are seldom what they seem in the world of New Frontier economics. And he is more than somewhat plaintive in pointing out the contradictions he has discovered.

For example, he holds up to the light the Administration's contention that by cutting taxes, the nation's purchasing power is increased and more dollars go into the reservoir of the private economy. Amen, says the gentleman from Virginia. So far, so good. But at the same time, the Administration proposes a $12 billion deficit.

Take it from there. A tax cut increases purchasing power. A deficit can be financed only by the sale of government bonds. This siphons off dollars from the private sector. That means less purchasing power. The tax cut will amount to $10 billion over three years. The deficit will be, as I noted, $12 billion in one year. Therefore purchasing power will be thrown for a loss.

I'm as bewildered as Representative Poff. There must be an answer somewhere, but I haven't been able to locate it.

Another example. It is an axiom on the New Frontier that more government spending will reduce unemployment. (It didn't under the New Deal, but that's another matter.) Mr. Poff hasn't too much hair to spare, but it's going fast as he tears it out in puzzlement. As he sees it, government spending has been going up at a rate of several billion dollars a year since Mr. Kennedy took over. Unemployment, in that period, seemed to decline by only 713,000. But that figure is highly misleading. In fact, government spending was matched by an increase in private sector unemployment.

If you look at the small print, you discover that between 1961 and 1963, total government employment increased by 1,004,141. Do the arithmetic, and you discover that in private industry 284,141 more people are unemployed today than when Mr. Kennedy took office. The billions spent added to the national debt, but they didn't help Mr. Unemployed unless he voted right and got a job at the local post office in return.

Had enough?

The Agriculture Department has a store of surplus wheat worth $2.1 billion dollars. South of the Border, our Brazilian neighbors are badly in need of wheat. They have a surplus of coffee. And, as Representative Poff notes, the United States is the greatest consumer of coffee in the world. It would seem sensible for the U.S. to trade its wheat for Brazilian coffee.

But that's not New Frontier logic. Instead, the U.S. government is topping its $1.9 billion foreign aid to Brazil with another $500 million. The Brazilians are using that money to buy wheat from the Soviet Union. In the past, the U.S.S.R. shipped wheat to Communist Poland, but it can't do this now because of its Brazilian commitment. So the U.S. is shipping wheat to the Poles, at reduced prices.

What does it add up to? Mr. Poff says agonizedly:

"American taxpayers are $500 million poorer. The government still has surplus wheat in its storage bins. The American consumer continues to pay high prices for Brazilian coffee. Communist Poland enjoys cheap American wheat. Russia ships wheat to Brazil and Russian consumers enjoy cheap Brazilian coffee."

And, of course, the Administration asks Congress for a big foreign aid appropriation.

This is what I mean when I say that I need a good course in New Frontier economics. Either that or the New Frontier needs some education in logic.

South for the Winter

STRICTLY PERSONAL

By SYDNEY J. HARRIS

Several readers have written in lately to remark their surprise that I have not commented on the proposals in various states to outlaw professional prize - fighting, following the recent deaths of a few boxers.

In all honesty, I cannot get excited one way or the other about prize-fighting in our society. Assuredly, as the Pope has observed, it is a brutal and dehumanizing activity (not boxing itself, but its commercial ramifications)—yet why waste any indignation upon it?

We live in an extraordinarily violent society. America may be a peace-loving country in its foreign relations (though some might doubt this too), but our internal relations are filled with rage, bitterness, hostility, and the kind of incivility that is only a hair's-breadth removed from physical conflict.

Big cities are not safe at night. New York's magnificent Central Park, in the heart of the city, cannot be walked in after dark—a fact which would shock and disgust not only every European but even members of what we call "primitive" societies. The American metropolis has become more of a jungle than the modern jungle.

If people need a vicarious outlet for their repressed aggressions, and they can gratify their bloody instincts by watching two men bash each other's brains out, I see no reason to put an end to such spectacles. It is barbarous, but it is confined to adults who know what they are doing — like professional auto racers—and are well paid for the chances they take.

Indignation about the fatalities in professional boxing is as pointless as asking that daredevil racing be stopped because some drivers are killed—while at the same time, public homicide on the highways increases every year with no effective program of prevention.

What is stupidly hypocritical about professional prize-fighting is the insistence by its proponents that it is a "sport" of any sort. It is nothing of the sort. It is a legitimatized way of permitting the public to give vent to its savage instincts; this is why everyone at a fight wants a knockout—which is a temporary form of death. A "good" fight to the public, no matter how inexpertly conducted, is one in which the maximum of punishment is given and received.

Those who attend fights want to witness death in the ring—just as those who watch a high-wire performer are waiting for a fall. When this happens, the cry that goes up from the crowd is horror — and delight. Until we know this, we do not know ourselves at all.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—Can a whale breath under water?

A—No.

Q—Is it possible for life to exist on the planet Venus?

A—Mariner-2 has determined the surface of Venus is some 800 degrees—too hot for life as known on earth.

WASHINGTON NOTEBOOK . . .

Solon Offers New Slogan For Papers

By The Washington Staff

WASHINGTON (NEA) — Anybody who invites President Kennedy to dine in the future and has the invitation accepted shouldn't be too surprised if a government moving van drives up to the place where the meal will be served and delivers the chair in which the guest of honor will sit.

That's what happened when the President went to lunch with the Committee for Economic Development during its one-day annual meeting in a Washington hotel.

The chair was a big black leather job, heavily upholstered, with a straight back and wide arms. It was placed at the head of the small table where a dozen CED and government officials were seated. White House explains the chair protects the President's back.

At the big Washington dinner honoring Arizona's Sen. Barry Goldwater, Sen. Thomas Kuchel of California was being asked whether he'd accept the No. 2 spot on the 1964 GOP presidential ticket.

As usual he said no. But in the by-play with newsmen over the question, he somehow got around to speculating on what kind of cabinet he would have if he were president.

With a playful glint in his eye he asked:

"How about Goldwater for secretary of Health, Education and Welfare?"

Sen. Karl E. Mundt, R-S.D., suggests that the New Frontier efforts to "manage the news" have resulted in the New York Times' famous slogan "All the News That's Fit to Print" being adapted by the White House for its own use. Now it reads: "All the News Printed to Fit."

Satirist Mark Russell's own homespun definition of "News-Management":

"The God-given right of every American newspaperman to get an incomplete story!"

Sen. Hugh Scott, R-Pa., says there's "no need to worry about Ted Kennedy. He has no more influence in Washington than any other brother of the President."

It was a tossup as to whether the House or the Senate Armed Services Committee would investigate the ousting of former Capt. Arthur J. Jackson from the Marine Corps for the alleged shooting of a Cuban spy at Guantanamo naval base last year. Senate committee chairman Richard B. Russell called the House chairman, Rep. Carl Vinson, to tell him that the Senate wanted to conduct the investigation. Vinson's reply was that he wanted to conduct the hearings himself.

Net result: The investigation will be held by the House Armed Services Committee under the chairmanship of Rep. Carl Vinson.

Gordon and Sheila MacRae, who brought a new night club act with them to Washington, gave their interpretation of what a coloring - book version of Jacqueline Kennedy's television tour of the White House would be like. The lines are acted out by Sheila MacRae, who dresses like Mrs. Kennedy:

"This is the House Jack won
A November night—
Color it WHITE.

This is also the House
Nixon depended upon—
Color him GONE.

This is the rug someone tore
With his spikes—
Color it IKE.

This is the closet where
Bess put her clothes, and
jewels and all—
Color it AWFULLY SMALL."

EDSON IN WASHINGTON . . .

Judicial Integrity Objective Of Celler

By PETER EDSON
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

WASHINGTON (NEA) — House Judiciary Committee Chairman Emanuel Celler, D-N.Y., observed his 75th birthday May 6 in fitting manner.

After listening to his colleagues pay tribute to his sterling character on the floor of the House, "Manny" Celler quietly dropped into the legislative hopper a bill to help keep federal judges honest.

This newest Celler proposal would make it a felony for any U.S. judge to participate directly in private business. It would not bar a judge from owning stocks. He would not even have to make a public declaration of his holdings.

But for practices like serving as a corporation, bank or insurance company director, or advising a private business firm on the side, a federal judge would be subject to impeachment, a fine of $5,000 and a year's imprisonment upon conviction.

Celler's idea is that this amendment to Title 28 of the U.S. code really will be welcomed by the judiciary.

Present law goes only so far as to prohibit judges from practicing law while serving on the bench. There has been no legal ban on judges from active participation in private business even though it is not in strict keeping with American Bar Assn. canons of judicial ethics.

No one knows the extent to which this has been done. There are now something over 400 federal judges. They are appointed for life, are well paid, get good pensions and are held in high honor. There is no reason for them to take anything on the side and most of them are above reproach.

In many cases of record federal judges have disqualified themselves from hearing cases involving companies in which they owned stock or in which competitors were litigants. But it is believed there have been just enough violations of principle to warrant tightening present restrictions and maintaining the highest standards of judicial integrity.

Attention was focused on this situation by Joseph Borkin's "The Corrupt Judge," published last year. The author is an attorney-economist formerly in the Department of Justice Antitrust Division. He made a hobby of research into judicial corruption for 10 years prior to writing his book.

He found 55 cases in which conduct of federal judges has been the subject of congressional investigation. Only eight judges actually were impeached, four being convicted and four acquitted. This is not an alarming record, although one corrupt judge is too many if perfection is expected.

Borkin concludes from his study that the way to prevent such developments would be to create an "office of reports" in each of the 11 judicial circuit councils headed by a senior judge.

Every federal judge would be required to file an annual report on his net worth, sources of income, business and professional relationships. Failure to file or false statements would be deemed misdemeanors. The reports would not be made public to protect judges from harassment.

Meanwhile, Jerry Landauer of Wall Street Journal has completed a comprehensive survey of business associations of the federal judiciary. His prime case is Judge John C. Knox of the Southern District of New York, who earned over $100,000 in fees as a life assurance company director in a 13-year period.

It was this disclosure which influenced Celler to introduce his bill banning business associations for federal judges.

WASHINGTON REPORT . . .

College Students Reject Federation

By FULTON LEWIS JR.

The National Student Association (NSA) was founded as a confederation of student governments to deal with campus problems, but the brash kids who run it delight in issuing extra-curricular policy pronouncements in the name of several million college students. As a consequence, school after school has withdrawn from the organization.

Among NSA pronouncements have been a demand for the abolition of the House UnAmerican Activities Committee; a persistent clamor for federal aid to education; a declaration of solidarity with Japanese students who rioted against President Eisenhower in 1960; and frequent attacks upon Western "colonialists," who happen, by strange coincidence, to be allies of Uncle Sam.

In recent months, the following schools have voted to withdraw from NSA: New York University (Washington Square Branch), enrollment 32,465; Indiana University, 26,791; Ohio State University, 25,107; University of Texas, 21,465; Denison University, 1,489; Vanderbilt University, 3,721, Xavier University, 3,638; Dayton University, 3,534.

And the outlook for NSA next year is bleaker still. Officials of the Young Americans for Freedom and the College Young Republicans say they will fight Vanderbilt University, 3,721; Xavier scores of campuses for withdrawal from NSA. Members of these two groups have been active in every fight where NSA has met defeat. Take the University of Texas, for instance. There, YR and YAF leaders set up an ad hoc Committee for a Responsible Student Government to fight NSA.

Lee McFadden, a YAF member who is head of the Texas College Young Republicans, tells how the young conservatives won their fight:

"Through the ad hoc committee, conservatives pounded hard at NSA's left-wing record. Representatives of the committee spoke and debated before service organizations, fraternities and sororities, wrote dozens of letters to the campus newspaper, put up signs and blanketed the university with literature.

"Unquestionably the most effective single weapon used in the campaign was an article from Human Events, 'Leftist Lobbies at Student Meeting,' by William Schulz."

Thousands of copies were distributed in dormitories and at the polls. The article, written by my associate, Bill Schulz, told the story of Mortimer Daniel Rubin, National Youth Director of the Communist Party, who was a conspicuous figure at the most recent NSA convention, held last summer in Columbus, Ohio.

Rubin, who was accredited as a delegate-observer, set up shop at NSA headquarters, addressing at least one regional caucus, advising delegates and distributing literature.

Other well-known leftists who attended the convention:

Marvin Markman, an identified Communist who took the Fifth Amendment. He is Vice President of Advance, a New York group against which the Attorney General has moved.

Susan Markman, youth secretary of the Citizens Committee for Constitutional Liberties, a cited Communist front.

Burton White, an official of the Bay Area Student Committee to Abolish the House UnAmerican Activities Committee and a key figure in the riots against HUAC in San Francisco three years ago.

Phillip A. Luce, an official of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, which has been cited as a Communist front.

Armed with the facts, Texas students voted 2-1 to get out of NSA.

Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Friday, May 24, the 144th day of 1963 with 221 to follow.

The moon is approaching its first quarter.

The morning stars are Venus, Jupiter and Saturn.

The evening star is Mars.

Those born today are under the sign of Gemini.

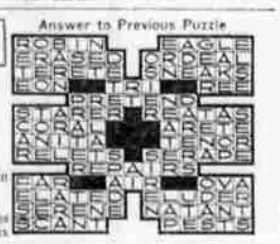
On this day in history:

In 1626, Peter Minuit, a Dutch trader, bought the island of Manhattan from the Indians for the equivalent of $24.

In 1941, HMS Hood of the British navy, the world's largest warship, was sunk by the German battleship Bismarck in a World War II engagement.

Hodgepodge

Answer to Previous Puzzle

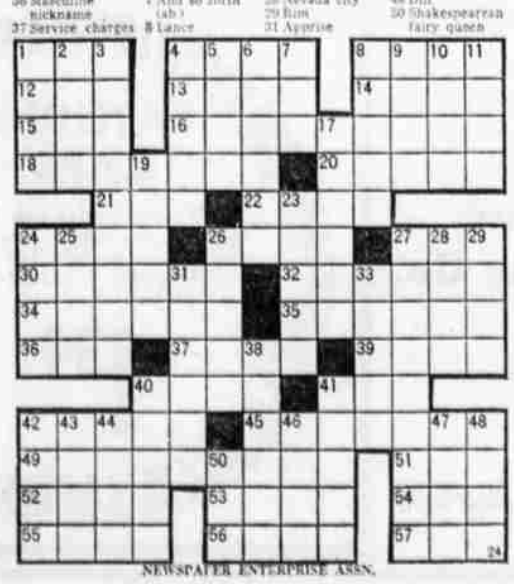


ACROSS

1 Pool, in cards
4 Robust
8 Aperture
12 Hail!
13 Diamounted
14 Tree
15 Dwarf (comb. form)
16 Lack of knowledge
18 Heavy hammers
20 Storms
21 Feast day (comb. form)
22 Smell
24 Foreteken
26 Arabian gulf
27 Priority (prefix)
30 Writing tool
32 Constructed
34 Escort
35 Straying
36 Masculine nickname
37 Service charges
39 Cry of bacchanals
40 Drone bees
41 Collection of sayings
42 Previous
43 Singing star
49 Attract favor to
51 John (Gaelic)
52 Ledger entry
53 British princess
54 Chemical suffix
55 Doctors (coll.)
56 Girl's nickname
57 Seine

DOWN

1 Basins
2 Ellipsoidal
3 Habitations
4 Suspends
5 Nautical term
6 Flexible
7 And so forth (abb.)
8 Lance
9 Marine fish
10 One time
11 Spread's mounds
17 Presser
19 Waltz
23 Challenges
24 Jewel
25 Allot
28 More aged
37 Hardship
38 Nevada city
39 Rim
31 Apprise
33 Amphitheater
38 Hebrew ascetic
40 Condemns
41 Peruvian mountains
42 Formally neat
43 Flexus
44 Frosted
46 Hostelries
47 Chest rattle
48 Dill
50 Shakespearean fairy queen



NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.