

Herald and News

Editorial Page

Staggering Ignorance

The fact that nearly a fourth of all selective service registrants in this country fail their mental examinations is a staggering reflection on U.S. education.

This rejection rate is indeed the fact. The percentage of failures actually exceeds 30 per cent in 11 states, and bests 50 per cent in two states—South Carolina and Mississippi.

It is interesting to note that in the 11 states with the poorest showing, the amount of schooling generally acquired is considerably less than for the nation as a whole.

The National Committee for Support of the Public Schools reports that in these 11 states, among people 25 years or older at the time of the 1960 census, 16.1 per cent had less than five years total schooling.

This compares with 8.3 per cent in the entire nation. The inadequately schooled, in other words, bulk twice as large in percentage terms in the states with the weakest performance in draft mental tests.

By and large, the best showing in these tests and the best record in the matter of minimum adequate schooling is found in some of the mountain and Pacific coast states.

Curiously, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire look good in amount of schooling, but their records in the selective service mental tests are not comparably good.

For the most part, the big industrial states do not come off as well in educational status as one would think, considering the size of their outlays for schooling. The "school support" committee argues that these states' ranking is generally lowered by migrants from states with poor school systems.

Can we really live comfortably with the knowledge that a quarter of our young men are mentally unqualified to serve in the country's armed forces?

It is obviously a matter for shame. We are not exactly one of the underdeveloped nations. But unmistakably we have in our midst a great many underdeveloped persons, both adult and young.

The National Committee for Support of the Public Schools is dedicated to the proposition that one big remedy for this sad condition is to put more of the citizens' money into the schools to improve their quality.

If one does not wish to see the federal government take a larger role in school financing, what the committee proposes is the necessary, the only course.

Not to provide a good school system is to save money, but waste tragically our human capital—the resource on which we must depend for our future safety and well being as a nation and a people.



HOLMES ALEXANDER . . .

A Political Desperado

By HOLMES ALEXANDER
MIAMI, Fla. — Nelson Rockefeller tried hard at the hot-tempered Governors' Conference to play the role of a man dedicated to the serious subject of civil rights, but the impression he left upon this observer was not so much of dedication as of desperation.

This is particularly unfortunate in a Republican candidate for President because we recently saw much of that quality in Richard Nixon. The former Vice President, and 1960 standard bearer for the GOP, was always a man giving the dice of life a desperate roll for stakes that were far beyond his means of attaining by any way except the gamble.

This is not meant in unkindness to Nixon. He is out of public life and is beyond the hurt of political critics. But it's a fact that he never was the caliber of man who should have been running for the presidency. He could never have come even close on his own merit. He went as far as he did, of course, by a parley on the popularity of Dwight Eisenhower. In the last week of his presidential campaign of '60, and again in the last week of his gubernatorial campaign in California, Nixon often behaved like a man who feels his luck running out and who must become more reckless still to win the high stakes.

Rockefeller brought to this conference much of that all-or-nothing air which Nixon carried around. The New York Governor's friends are saying of him that he no longer cares for the challenges and satisfactions of public life on the state level. He is said to know that he cannot win another term as governor in 1966. The taxes and fees he has imposed in his state have cost him his once-high popularity. The scandals within his administration have taken the glow off his glamour.

Rockefeller is in the position of having to run for the presidency in 1964, even though the time is not propitious, or never to run at all. The talk of New York Republicans is that if Rockefeller fails to get the GOP nomination next year, he will resign the governorship to LL Governor Malcolm Wilson and fade back into private life.

But, meanwhile, the glitter of the White House has become all the more alluring as Rockefeller's handicaps increase. Mr. Kennedy proved that precedents are not very binding in American politics. Unearned wealth and Catholicism, a mediocre record in House and Senate, did not stop JFK. He overcame all by his boldness and a grim will-to-win when only numerous people named Kennedy thought he had any chance.

Rockefeller's disadvantages are hardly less formidable than Mr. Kennedy's were. Rockefeller will have to overcome the two-term White House tradition, a poor record as governor and a private life that

is open to criticism. The odds look steep but not more steep than those which Mr. Kennedy overcame when he set out to get the Democratic nomination with every Democratic leader of the day against him — Mrs. Roosevelt, Sam Rayburn, Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson and Adlai Stevenson.

Indeed, if Rockefeller's political associates know his mind, Rockefeller may be following the Kennedy example very closely, especially as it relates to the State primaries. The Governor is said to be ready to go into the New Hampshire election next March with the same kind of money and thoroughness that carried JFK to his big win in West Virginia in 1960.

"Rocky," said one of his fellow New Yorkers over a tart martini, "will pour so many dollars into New Hampshire that people will forget about the issues and see nothing but the greenbacks. The race won't be a contest of ideas. It'll be a battle in public relations. While Barry Goldwater is definitely more popular in New Hampshire, I think it's far from impossible that Rocky would beat him — on organization alone."

The "organization" which this man had in mind can be defined as the art of collecting the votes of people who wouldn't ordinarily go to the polls. The votes of the indifferent and the ignorant, the venal and the vain, are what make up the winning margin — or, at least, that's what the professional organizers believe.

Almanac

By United Press International
Today is Tuesday, July 30, the 211th day of 1963 with 154 to follow.

The moon is approaching its new phase.

The morning stars are Jupiter and Saturn.

The evening stars are Mars and Saturn.

Those born today include American automobile inventor Henry Ford, in 1863.

On this day in history:
In 1619, the first American representative assembly convened at Jamestown, Va.

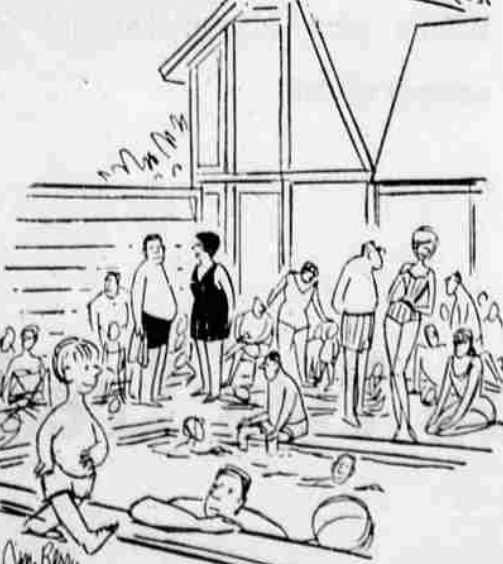
In 1916, German saboteurs blew up a munitions plant outside Jersey City, N.J., and two people were killed. Damages amounted to \$22 million.

In 1937, a new union was formed — The American Federation of Radio Artists.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt formed the WAVES, "Women appointed for voluntary emergency service," in the Navy.

A thought for the day—British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill said: "If we open a quarrel between the past and present, we will find that we have lost the future."

BERRY'S WORLD



"... But without our swimming pool, would we have any friends?"

Talk Business---That Fellow's From Internal Revenue



IN WASHINGTON . . .

Breaking A Law

By RALPH de TOLEDANO
There is much talk about the "law of the land" every time the Supreme Court rules. But according to the Constitution, any enactment of Congress unless and until it has been voided by the courts is the law of the land. The President of the United States has no right to decide which laws he will enforce, which he will ignore.

This, as Rep. Melvin Laird of Wisconsin has pointed out, is precisely what Mr. Kennedy is doing. It is an index of the apathy in Washington that Mr. Laird's documented case has caused no outcry either in Congress or among the members of the press. It will be recalled that the Foreign Aid Appropriations Act included a proviso banning United States aid to any country which "permits any ships under its registry" to carry oil to Cuba. This is a flat prohibition, with no discretionary powers.

The act also denies aid "to any country which sells, furnishes or permits any ships under its registry to carry items of economic assistance to Cuba." Only if the President decides that withholding this aid to Cuba would be against the national interest — and then reports his determination to the Foreign Relations and Appropriations Committees of both Senate and House—can this second proviso be waived.

Last January, the State Department made clear its knowledge of the two prohibitions. Press Officer Joseph W. Reap announced

that the department had warned nations receiving U.S. foreign aid of the terms of the new law. The Secretary of State, Reap said, had told them that aid would be "cut off to countries whose ships carry goods to Cuba."

That was, as I said, last January. The country was still stirred up over the missile bases in Cuba and demanding some kind of action. The boys in the back room at State and the White House didn't like the prohibitions in the law, but they had no choice.

Representative Laird has now discovered that in the New Frontier there are two laws of the land for the White House—what the President likes and what he dislikes. The prohibitions in the act, therefore, have become a dead letter. The Executive Branch is simply ignoring them and allowing nations on the receiving end of U.S. aid to do as they please.

Says Mr. Laird: "In calendar year 1962, 27 countries (trading with Cuba) received economic aid and/or military aid from the United States. In the first half of fiscal 1963, A.I.D. expenditures to these countries totaled \$245.9 million. Through March 9, 1963, military expenditures to these countries amounted to \$231.7 million."

In short, the Administration handed out close to half a billion dollars to countries not entitled to U.S. aid—in violation of the statute. In those first six months of 1963, moreover, tankers from Great Britain, Greece, Italy and

Norway carried oil to Cuba.

A check of the committees which were to be informed of any determination by the President that cutting off shipments to Cuba would be detrimental to the U.S. shows that at no time did Mr. Kennedy submit the required certification.

In short, America's "do nothing" policy on Cuba has now shifted to a "do something for Cuba" policy. This is a strange pattern of behavior for a Chief Magistrate who has sworn to uphold and execute the law of the land—and who must set an example for lesser mortals.

Representative Laird says further: "For Congress to permit any individual to exercise a discretionary authority when such discretion is not provided by law means that Congress is abandoning its prerogatives. There is some controversy as to whether Supreme Court decisions become the law of the land or the law only of a particular case. There is no controversy, however, over the status of laws passed by the Congress and signed by the President."

Ironically, Mr. Laird is right. There is no controversy. The President simply tossed this law aside like a scrap of paper. And no one in Washington really seems to care.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Strenuous

I read in your Wednesday, July 17, 1963, sport section where a tiny nine or ten-year-old girl may have set a world's record in the 40 yard dash. It also states that an attempt will be made to see if it is a record. To assist those interested I would like to say it probably is, because I have been connected with track more ways than one for 50 years and have never known an adult in any other locality who would permit a child of six to ten years of age to participate in such a strenuous race.

I ran in Jackson County in the early twenties when children were permitted to run longer races than now, however, no child in school below the ninth grade was permitted to run more than 220 yards. The grade school track meets in Klamath County from the late twenties to the present time had as its longest race for 12-13 year old boys only 220 yards. Girls 12-13 years ran only 75 yards as their longest race. Now your paper states that six year old boys and eight year old girls may run 440 yards. What does a race of this length prove, I wonder.

Those children aren't mine but I hope through your kindness in publishing this note that we can prevent the horror of someone having to carry a dead child off the track. I feel quite sure any competent doctor will agree with me that the 440 yard dash is too strenuous for these tiny children, boys or girls.

John Balani,
A Visitor From
Applegate, Ore.

EDSON IN WASHINGTON . . .



Keating Reaps Hay In Nonpartisan Show

By PETER EDSON
Washington Correspondent
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

WASHINGTON (NEA) — Sen. Kenneth B. Keating of New York runs one of the smartest bipartisan radio and television news commentary programs originating in Washington.

Though he is a dyed-in-the-wool and rock-ribbed Republican from way back, he puts Democratic guest stars on his show and lets them say what they please in answer to his pointed questions. He doesn't argue with them. But he often puts on his program Democrats who support his viewpoint.

So far this year he has had 10 Democrats on his 13-minute weekly shows, to seven Republicans and 11 other government officials or prominent private citizens.

He began this in 1949 when he was still in the House of Representatives. He pioneered the use of television as a supplement to his letters and weekly reports to constituents.

In 14 years he has become something of a pro as he sends out advance transcripts of his shows to political writers and he makes news. He has built up his program so that it now goes out over seven to 10 television stations and 36 to 41 radio stations in New York state. He also runs a five-minute program for two other television and 26 other radio stations.

Buying the tapes, they carry the programs as public service newscasts. This is another reason why Keating has to keep them nonpartisan. If they were straight party line, they might have to be paid for as political broadcasts.

His shows move fast and aren't long speeches. The senator uses about half of his time at the beginning and end of his program to answer the most intelligent letters he has received from constituents during the previous week. He puts over his own ideas in these answers. The other half of his time is an interview with his guest.

Among the prominent Democrats he has had on his show recently are: Ambassador to India Chester Bowles on foreign aid;

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd of Connecticut on the Congo, Laos and Viet Nam; Undersecretary of State Averell Harriman on the nuclear test ban negotiations in Moscow; new Undersecretary of Commerce Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr.; Sen. Warren G. Magnuson of Washington State, chairman of the Commerce Committee which is now holding hearings on equal access to public facilities in the civil rights program.

Keating says he gets a little fan mail from lifelong New York Republicans, asking why he puts these so-and-so Democrats on the air. But he gets far more mail and comments from Democrats, commending him for giving both sides.

For Keating, this is smart politics. In his state the Democratic registration is about 400,000 higher than the Republican in a seven million total. Also, New York has a Conservative party which pulled 130,000 in the last election, a Liberal party which pulled nearly 300,000 and a substantial independent vote of unknown division.

In short, a Republican running for president, senator or state office in New York has to attract a lot of Democratic votes if he wants to win.

Keating has to run for re-election in 1964. So he has to make his pitch at the Democratic independent and liberal voters in New York.

About the only thing comparable to the Keating show is the series of joint broadcasts made to Pennsylvania by its two senators, Republican Hugh Scott and Democrat Joseph S. Clark. They really do a job of informing the voters of their state on party differences. They debate issues in the best interests of educating the public.

Intelligent, independent voters think there should be more of this kind of informative discussion on both sides of the many controversial issues facing the country.

The old-time partisan debate based on the theory that one party is always right and the other always wrong is long gone. Both parties are hopelessly divided between conservatives and liberals. So party labels no longer have any meaning.

WASHINGTON REPORT . . .



Half-Measures Can't Whip Communism

By FULTON LEWIS JR.

WASHINGTON—Pink - cheeked, baby - faced Peter Dominick is rapidly earning a reputation as one of the most eloquent Republican critics of Administration foreign policy.

A freshman Senator elected in thumping style last fall, Dominick has spurned the free advice traditionally offered to first-timers. He has refused to sit quietly on the Senate floor and has instead spoken out forcefully on the necessity for a get-tough policy around the globe.

Shortly after he took his oath of office, Dominick rose to deliver a masterful address on the Administration's tragic policy of accommodation in Laos.

On Thursday of last week, the Colorado Senator ripped apart the Administration's policy (or lack of policy) designed to cope with Fidel Castro's number one export, revolution.

He reminded Senate colleagues of the humiliation last month heaped upon U.S. soldiers stationed in Caracas, Venezuela. On June 3, eight members of the Castro-financed Armed Forces of National Liberation alerted headquarters of the U.S. Military Mission in the Venezuelan capital.

Brandishing pistols, the Marxist punks overran the mission, knocking out four Venezuelan guards, forcing six U.S. Army officers to strip, then stealing their clothes and their firearms.

They set fire to the building, and left, chanting "Down with Yankee Imperialism! Cuba, Si! Yanguis, No!" Two days later, Radio Havana hailed the attackers as "patriots."

Dominick inserted in the Congressional Record reports of Castro "subversion throughout the hemisphere."

The Minister of Interior of the Colombian Government recently charged that "Peasants' Leagues," similar to the militant Communist groups in northeastern Brazil, are operating in two provinces of his country. They are, he said, armed and financed by Castro Cuba.

At a Communist Labor Congress in Prague, Czechoslovakia, the Cuban delegate told the assemblage that Cuba was stimulating "support for the people of Venezuela, Colombia and Nicaragua—with the aim of overthrow-

ing the governments of these countries."

Earlier this year a group of 69 young Peruvians returned from Cuba where they had received training for six months in sabotage and guerrilla warfare. On May 20, they swooped down on the town of Puerto Maldonado in the northeast corner of their country. Authorities arrested several and discovered the terrorists were following a Made-in-Cuba plan to unleash revolution throughout the nation. Other targets in the plan included Lima, the national capital, and the ancient Inca capital of Cuzco, which is considered the Communist center of Peru.

Evidence uncovered by the Central Intelligence Agency indicates that large amounts of cash are smuggled by Castro agents into Latin countries. The funds are used to finance subversion. Revolutionaries throughout the hemisphere have been supplied with trucks on guerrilla warfare, written by Guevarra and Albert Bayo, the latter a Communist veteran of the Spanish Civil War. They include instructions on the use of explosives and other incendiary preparations that can be manufactured easily.

Senator Dominick calls upon the Administration to push within the Organization of American States for action that would curtail the travel of Castro agents throughout the hemisphere.

He demands to know why the Administration has dropped plans for an economic embargo of Cuba. He wants real steps taken to end the steady stream of free world ships that make the jaunt to Cuba.

In short, he wants action, not empty rhetoric. He rejects the idea that Latin America may turn Communist unless massive foreign aid is channeled southward.

"It is the myth of 'stomach Communism' that beguiles us into believing that to counteract subversion humanitarian sympathy will do the job; that wiping out illiteracy is the same thing as cutting off systematic infiltration by trained cadres of the Communist underground; that to eliminate poverty is to block Communist penetration into every free Republic in this hemisphere."

"It is the myth that half-measures can blunt the thrust of world Communist aggression. It is the illusion that massive expenditures can substitute for a militant will to win. It is, I suggest, an invitation to disaster."