

Herald and News

Editorial Page

The Load Bearers

Every once in a while some scientist or science writer takes a flier into the future to predict the marvelous things that thinking machines will do someday.

Don't look now — but they're already doing it.

Richard Bellman, a mathematician with the Rand Corp., points out that computers are, among other things, beginning to control traffic in big cities, direct the complete processing of steel, handle drug quality control and take over many bank jobs.

The man from the Air Force's "think factory" claims that by applying just what we know today about computers, all our mass-

produced goods could be made by just 2 or 3 per cent of the population.

Herein lies the great question which will have to be answered by the next generation: What to do with all the leisure time that will be available?

Although tomorrow's computers will be marked by machines that deliver more than is programmed into them — that is, they can repair themselves and teach themselves — fears that they will ever "take over the world" are groundless.

Machines will replace men only in doing things men don't want to do themselves.

Is The PTA Outmoded?

(Medford Mail-Tribune)

The Parent-Teacher Association has long been a fixture in most of the schools of the nation. Has it helped the schools? Has it hindered educators in doing a good job? Has the PTA outlived any usefulness it once had? Or is it still a beneficial influence in education?

These questions are almost always good for a lively discussion these days. We do not pretend to know the answers to them, but they are a legitimate subject for debate.

A recent issue of the Seattle Argus carried an article by Philip Bailey in which he calls for the abolishment of the PTAs. Give both the teachers and the kids a break, he asks.

Bailey does not see the PTA as a threat to the republic, but says "The main objections to its continued existence are that it wastes a lot of time of both parents and teachers, and only further muddles an already confused educational effort." He adds:

"The teachers, of course, are forced to attend the gatherings, and in most instances must spend considerable time and effort in getting their rooms ready for periodic inspections. I have talked to many teachers about the PTA, and have yet to find one who thinks the schools would not be better off without it. In fact, the main objection to the PTA is the strong and not so subtle pressure exerted on the teaching staff. Woe to the teacher who does not cooperate, and no unorthodoxy or hanky-panky will be tolerated. . . .

"We wonder if the cause of education would not be better served if it were left in the hands of professional educators, and let parents confine their activities to the necessary training in behavior, religion and morals. . . ."

In discussing this article with a parent of our acquaintance, we found her in partial disagreement—not with the thesis that the PTAs were not really useful, but because it was her experience that they tended to be used as "rubber stamps" for decisions of the administration.

Our own experience with the PTA consisted of taking out a 50 cent membership for each of several years, under pressure from youngsters, who in turn were under pressure to make the room "100 per cent" thus entitling it to a prize or recognition of some sort; and service on a PTA safety committee for a short time (We did succeed in having a traffic signal installed at a school crossing.)

We resented the pressures involved, and usually found the tea-and-cookie committee sessions just as fruitless as the full chapter sessions.

It is our conviction that parents sincerely interested in the education of their children — as opposed to such things as room prizes, tea parties and social chit-chat—would do better by visiting the classes their children attend, discussing problems personally with teachers and administrators involved, and in working with the children in an attempt to be helpful.

We do not deny—we cheerfully acknowledge — the PTAs have some real accomplishments to their credit.

But are the accomplishments worth the wheel-spinning, the pressures on children and teachers alike, the half-baked explanations of the "educational programs," the endless committee meetings, which are involved?

We are inclined to doubt it.

Teachers are gradually gaining status as a profession. More and more they are well-educated, intelligent, dedicated people, who are trained to do a job, and in most cases do it well.

Would it, in Mr. Bailey's words, be better to leave education "in the hands of professional educators" and to concentrate on other parental duties and obligations?

Let each parent answer for himself and herself. Let the teachers answer, too. For, ultimately, we must decide if teachers are to teach, or if they are to be subjected to pressures, subtle and not so subtle, to conform and to present a bland and pleasant "image" to parents in general.

—E.A.

"Maybe We Should Trim Off a Little— Say About Here"



IN WASHINGTON . . .

Growth Gap Disappears

By RALPH de TOLEDANO

During the 1960 campaign, John F. Kennedy and the Democratic Party pounded away at two points: The missile gap and economic growth. They said that the "missile gap" would allow the Soviets to surpass us by 1963 in the new weaponry. Mr. Kennedy and Defense Secretary McNamara took care of that one very soon after the inaugural ceremonies. There was, they admitted, no "missile gap"—and today (in 1963) they are boasting of our tremendous rocket lead.

But the Administration clung to the economic growth gap, in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary. For some time, depending on the speaker, the "statistics" cited showed that whereas the economic growth of the United States was as low as 2.5 per cent, the Soviets were zooming ahead with percentages running as high as seven or eight.

To listen to the "experts," the Communists would be far ahead of the United States in the production of steel, butter, consumer goods, and hangnails before 1970. If doubting Thomases doubted, hand-picked Soviet figures from the mouth or pen of Nikita Khrushchev were quoted. The greatest exponent of this

"growthmanship" was Dr. Walt Whitman Rostow, an Administration stalwart who wrung his hands at the thought of Soviet superiority and pleaded for a planned economy to "help" us catch up with those busy-bee Russians. What he said was good campaign and post-campaign talk—and it made headlines in places overseas which were looking for "facts" to prove that the U.S. was on the skids, and the U.S.S.R. the wave of the future.

But times have changed. It is now important for the Administration to prove how tremendously successful the United States has been, how little we have to fear from the Soviets. (If this point can be driven home properly, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Blow will be convinced that the Administration saved the U.S. from economic defeat.)

Dr. Rostow, therefore, has been trotted out to offer up a new set of "statistics" to show how superlative this country is. (I have nothing against that—this is a superlative country—but I am not impressed when those who have been downgrading us suddenly get the message.) The economist, now chairman of the State Department's top planning board, has suddenly discovered that pri-

vate enterprise societies have greater economic growth than Communist societies. (We could have told him all along that this was so.)

With a great show of indignation, Dr. Rostow brushes aside the blighted fools of underdeveloped countries who still cling to the notion that free nations are slipping back and being out-produced by the intrepid Communists. Ridiculous, he says, looking angrily at the nearest radical-righter. The exact opposite is true.

For this, I feel a considerable gratitude. Throughout the campaign and since then, I have been offering facts and figures to show that it will be a long, wet day before the Soviets even begin to close the economic growth gap. The figures were all there for any reasonably inquisitive reporter to read, but few enough did.

Listen, therefore, to Dr. Rostow. The Gross National Product in the Communist empire rose an average of 3.6 per cent in 1962—with the Soviet growth not quite achieving four per cent. On the other hand, the NATO powers were expanding at a rate of 4.8 per cent—with the U.S. marking up a rise of 5.4 per cent.

In 1960, John F. Kennedy was telling the electorate that U.S. economic growth was declining. The new Rostow figures are hardly corroborative. It would be interesting to compile all the Presidential references to the "economic growth gap" and to compare them with the current words of Dr. Rostow. He is still calling for economic planning, but he is ready to admit that "efficiency in producing many diverse products is hard for a government bureaucracy to attain" because "there are not all that many competent bureaucratic managers."

I've been saying that, too, for quite a while. But it's nice to know that Dr. Rostow now agrees with me.

makes modifying the main political process.

Nearly everyone uses the word "preposterous" as a mere synonym for "absurd," which is the loss for a useful word; "preposterous" means a special kind of absurdity, such as putting the cart before the horse, or sentencing a man before his conviction.

The conflict between the generations was succinctly put by Lyman Bryson, when he said: "The error of youth is to believe that intelligence is a substitute for experience; while the error of age is to believe that experience is a substitute for intelligence."

Architects customarily look more harassed than any other group of professional men because theirs is the only profession in which the client usually thinks he knows more than the expert; no surgeon is told by the patient where to make the incision, nor is any lawyer ordered to rearrange jurisprudence—but architects often have to satisfy bad taste more than their own canons of esthetics.

Business letters that are sent out with the bumptious inscription "Dictated but not read," should be promptly returned with the notation, "Received but not necessarily believed."

Water lapping against the shore at night outside one's window is the greatest specific in the world; to me, a land-locked vacation, nowhere near a coastline, is a waste of time and money.

Letters To The Editor

Concerned

Why wasn't Mrs. Betty Cote retained as head librarian? It is our understanding that her capacity was a much more permanent one than was indicated in the article a few days ago which stated that she had been "acting" head of the County Library. Furthermore, in the discussion of consolidation of the two libraries a few months ago, the present staff was to be retained.

We have no personal friends at either library, but after two years of being constant customers, we have grown to appreciate the pleasant and conscientious people who have always been kind about assisting us when we needed it. And one of the most helpful has been Mrs. Cote.

So little has been said about the subject that we are inclined to feel that there has been something underhanded about the whole business. Please will someone explain the situation. I am sure there are others who are as concerned as we are. We would certainly hate to see the rest of the staff disappear in the same unorthodox manner. Mrs. Cote and all the rest have done a fine job and certainly deserve better treatment than this incident leads us to believe they will receive.

Mrs. Glenn J. Shannon, 6047 Shasta Way.

Reconsider

To the Klamath County Library Board:

It has been learned that the court and the Klamath Library Board have required Mrs. Cote's resignation after hiring Mrs. Karczag. When questioned last January at a joint staff and board meeting the board stated that all employees would be retained. Both county and city librarians were to be retained under the survey by Mr. Coudig, and according to the court and the board.

The staff is willing and anticipates cooperating in every way with the new librarian; however, it is felt that she will be hindered in her efforts since with Mrs. Cote gone, there is no one on the present staff who knows the procedure, files and policies connected with the administration of the main library, branches, bookmobile and extension services. With all the responsibilities of consolidation facing the new librarian we feel Mrs. Cote's knowledge would be of great assistance to Mrs. Karczag.

The replacement of Mrs. Gladys

Cox, reference librarian, when she retires, has already been brought to the attention of the board. We feel this person should be in training at present time to carry on with any degree of efficiency in this department. Mrs. Cote has many qualifications for this position, including knowledge of materials and library holdings. This would shorten the training period necessary. Statistics show training periods are expensive.

With the best interest of the library at heart and a knowledge of the tremendous job facing all of us during the consolidation, the staff asks the board to reconsider and retain Mrs. Cote as a staff member.

(Signed) Ethel E. Zevely, Betty Emmert, Wendell B. Smith, Anne M. Briggs, Gladys Cox, Marjorie P. Ebert, Irma Matthews, Beulah Campbell, Mike Ferguson, Gretta C. Moorman.

Mess

Recently about 30 Mazamas, members of a Portland mountain-climbing club, visited the Sky Lakes area in the Winema National Forest for the first time. We were very favorably impressed with what we saw. Some of us hiked from Seven Mile Marsh to Cold Spring, savoring the good trails, the fine mountain views, and the many lovely lakes. We thoroughly enjoyed our twenty mile hike and weather favored us until a heavy rain began just as we came into Cold Spring Camp for lunch.

Imagine our dismay and disgust in finding the attractive log shelter too befouled for human use. Some riders had ignored the hitching rack and corral and stabled their horses in the shelter rendering it unfit for a long time. It is hard to believe that anyone could so misuse the only building in a campground affording people protection from a storm.

Since these trails and campgrounds were established by the U.S. Forest Service for the comfort and pleasure of hikers, campers, hunters and fishermen, their use by horses or mechanical equipment must be strictly regulated or prohibited if necessary to protect these facilities from abuse or misuse. One such instance of abuse can ruin the comfort and pleasure of countless people who come later, rightfully expecting to enjoy a shelter, a clean campground and safe trails.

Mrs. Martha Ann Platt, 2738 N. E. 14th Street, Portland 12, Oregon.

WASHINGTON REPORT . . .



Russians Have Long Record Of Perfidy

By FULTON LEWIS JR.

Senator Frank Lausche had done his homework. Dean Rusk had not. The story is that simple.

The Secretary of State journeyed down Pennsylvania Avenue to Capitol Hill the other day where he was scheduled to plug the partial nuclear test ban before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Waiting for him was Lausche, the maverick Democrat who may well be the only member of his party representing a Northern state to vote against ratification. Lausche had a few questions he wished to ask about the Soviet record of treaty violations. When Rusk indicated he did not know the answer to one of Lausche's queries, and that he "would have to be advised on that point," the Senator obliged.

The wavy-haired overtime Ohio Governor launched into a ten-minute lecture on Soviet perfidy. Thirty-four years ago, Lausche reminded Rusk, the Soviets signed the Kellogg-Briand Treaty and

agreed to outlaw war. Within months, Red soldiers crossed into Manchuria.

Then Soviet diplomats inked a "non-aggression" pact with Finland that contained an escape clause identical to that found in the current test ban treaty. Either side could abrogate the treaty by giving three months advance notice.

Without five minutes advance notice, the Soviet Union invaded Finland, Nov. 30, 1939.

Lausche referred back to 1933 when President Franklin Roosevelt established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. Soviet diplomats then swore there was no agency located on their soil mapping world-wide Communist strategy. At that very time, the Comintern was headquartered in Moscow, its agents plotting world revolution.

Senator Lausche got Rusk to admit the Soviets had violated an agreement with this country as late as last fall. At that time, Premier Khrushchev agreed to on-site inspection that would prove all long-range missiles had been removed from Cuba. The promise was never kept.

Other treaties broken by the Soviets:

—In 1920, the Soviet Union entered into separate peace treaties with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, recognizing their independence and autonomy and renouncing voluntarily all Soviet rights to their territory.

Each land is now occupied by Soviet troops.

—On July 25, 1932, the Soviet Union agreed to a non-aggression pact with Poland. On Sept. 17, 1939, as the Poles fought valiantly to fend off Nazi troops in the west, Soviet armies attacked in the east.

—On Dec. 27, 1945, the Soviets agreed to support formation of a provisional government for North and South Korea. From the very beginning the Soviets violated the agreement.

—On Jan. 29, 1942, the Soviet Union agreed to withdraw its forces from Iran. Three years later, the Soviets armed pro-Communist rebels, supplied them with Red uniforms, and repudiated their agreement. In January of 1946, the Iranian government appealed to the United Nations charging the Soviet Union with violating the 1942 agreement and interfering in its domestic affairs.

HOLMES ALEXANDER . . .

We All Can Dream!



By HOLMES ALEXANDER

Dictators have their dreams. You wouldn't know it from the press clips of Fulgencio Batista and Perez Jimenez, two strong men who are down on their luck, but they had an idea in their heads beyond stealing the money and the liberties of their countrymen.

Batista did this in Cuba and Jimenez did it in Venezuela, and I had the luck to interview both men when they thought themselves secure—and both were bemused with visions of imagined grandeur yet to come.

I saw Batista in his office in Havana, and later at his villa, when Castro was far off in the hills. Between these interviews, American Ambassador Arthur Gardner had walked me earnestly around the Embassy grounds, speaking of Batista as "a god-send." At last, said the ambassador, a Cuban leader had established the kind of government which attracted American business other than tourism and gambling. At last—through agriculture, construction, industry and even oil exploration—the Yankee dollar was a seed-dollar for investment that would produce income for the Cuban people.

Batista was conscious of Gardner's approbation. He was proud of it. But I do not think the dictator panted much for the betterment of his people. He was a self-shipper. A peasant, he was snubbed by the American and Cuban elite, who preferred the well-born, university-trained "Dr." Castro.

Batista felt this snobbery, but did not resent it. He gloried in it. All about him were pictures and biographies of Lincoln. He had Jim Bishop's "The Day Lincoln Died" on his desk. This squat, swarthy son of the Cuban earth was not a candidate in the presidential election of 1938 when I saw him. He knew that he had overstayed his time in office and he had a retirement home in Daytona Beach.

But he hoped to leave his office to a Constitutional successor, and to have history say that he, the peasant-President, had begun the emancipation of his people from poverty and economic overlordship. Had the Eisenhower Government recognized him to the end, and recognized his successor, Batista's fantasy might have been at least as real as most men's dreams.

Perez Jimenez, a drowsy little jellybean of a man, talked with me last summer in his Miami Beach waterfront home—a house no grander than others in the neighborhood, not nearly so grandiose as some of the adjectives that it attracted after Jimenez was snatched from it and sent to jail. I later wrote of Jimenez as a pocketbook pirate, a horseback dictator. So he was, although I still feel he was a victim of managed justice by an administration which prides itself on supporting Civil Rights.

Anyhow, Jimenez, despite being a multi-million-dollar embezzler and an overaged Latin lover, was something of a dreamer, too. He looked upon himself not as a Lin-

coln but as a Caesar Augustus—the Emperor who turned Rome into a city of marble. Like Mussolini and Huey Long, Jimenez saw his own glory in the great buildings and highways which were constructed during his regime.

But the little man, now jailed in Caracas and awaiting trial by the forces of his arch rival, President Romulo Betancourt, used to laze in the Florida sun and dream dreams of a return to Venezuela very different from the one he came to experience. He dreamed that some day the people would send him the message: "Rule us again, oh wise and mighty."

Perhaps these two fallen tyrants demonstrate the only equality that is common to the sons of earth. We all can dream, can't we?

Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Thursday, Aug. 29, the 241st day of 1963 with 124 to follow.

The moon is approaching full phase.

The morning star is Jupiter. The evening stars are Mars and Saturn.

American poet and essayist Oliver Wendell Holmes was born on this date in 1809.

On this day in history:

In 1921, newspapers said the Ku Klux Klan had tarred and feathered 41 Texans in the past seven days.



By SYDNEY J. HARRIS

Purely Personal Prejudices: The basic difference between the artist and the entertainer—which is a vague distinction in most people's minds—is that the former works to satisfy himself, while the latter works to please his audience; great artists rarely command the popular appeal of talented entertainers, because they do not give the public what it wants, but what it ought to want.

Some people are so hopelessly utilitarian in their outlook that they can't buy a hurricane lamp without half hoping for a hurricane.

What bigots never understand is that any group treated like inferiors become inferiors (try it with children); as G. I. Dickinson observed long ago, "Every kind of discrimination is a protection of the incompetent against the competent, with the result that the motive to become competent is taken away."

Does anyone join me in admiring my profound self-restraint at being almost the only journalistic commentator in the United States to have thus far refrained from writing a single word about the Profumo case?

The four most dangerous words in any language are "all," "none," "always" and "never"—for the basic test of any civilization (as of any man) is its capacity to qualify and modify its judgments and decisions; and the beauty of democracy, despite its defects, is that it

BERRY'S WORLD



"Why can't YOU get yourself labeled by some magazine?"