

# Editorial Page

## Beating Down Bureaucrats

How far bureaucratic insolence has etched its way into the federal offices and into some of the personalities employed by the federal government has been amply demonstrated in Brookings, S.D.

Here's the way we get the story. A few months ago an agent of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service came to town on official business. He parked in a meter zone and went about his business. His allotted time expired. The Brookings Police Department slapped a ticket on his car.

Hearing nothing from the agent, the police department notified him, as is customary with police departments the nation over. He was reminded he owed a parking ticket.

Back came a letter from the U.S. Comptroller's office saying, you can't fine an employee of the government. "Parking meter fees constitute an unauthorized attempt to tax or burden the federal government in carrying out its function," was the word.

Well, Editor C. A. Mitchell of the Brookings Register didn't like the word. In an editorial he asked: "Are federal employes a master race apart, exempt from petty annoyances that beset the rest of us common mortals?" Another editor, Alan C. McIntosh, of the Luvverne Star-Herald hopped on the matter, too.

"We do not want," he said, "any super-state in America although we are growing steadily in that direction. . . . We do not want any government employe, federal, state or local ever to get the delusion for one moment that he belongs to a 'master race' and is not

subject to the laws the citizenry must abide by."

In Sioux Falls, a local businessman had his two bits worth to say and he said them in the right spots. He sent a letter to the Brookings Police Department urging it to stand its ground and collect that parking fee from the great big income tax man. He sent copies of his letter to Sens. Mundt and McGovern and Reps. Berry and Reifel. The Washington delegation was quick to act.

They asked the U.S. Comptroller's office how come? First, back came the usual bureaucratic replies; that a city had no right to levy a parking meter fine against a federal car. One reply was in the form of a three-page typewritten letter and contained the usual gobbledegook from a Washington bureau.

South Dakotans did not let the matter die.

Now the Comptroller's office has backed down and said it is "recommending new procedures which should minimize recurrence of this problem in the future."

We hope it will mean federal employes will get the idea out of their heads, if it is there, that they are special characters, and put the thought in that should be there, that they are paid by the taxpayers and should act like anyone else.

There's another little moral to this event. It's what can happen when an aroused public has its say. Remember this when you feel like writing a letter to a public official.

## Students We Can Do Without

Congressman Robert Taft of Ohio is urging the government to lower the boom on eager beavers who are enthusiastically promoting additional trips to Cuba by U.S. "students" who yearn to revel firsthand in the glories of the Castro culture.

The congressman is making sense. These free-loading junkies by American youngsters to soak up Castro hatred of their country go a little beyond good, clean fun. They come uncomfortably close to being field trips in rebellion.

What kind of a misguided kid is it who joyfully latches on to a free ride offered by one of the loudest enemies America has?

How much more disloyal to your own country can you get than to woo unsubtle

brainwashing by such a host—and then come back to sneer at American democracy as a poor imitation of the real thing as practiced by Castro in Cuba?

And how can you be much more contemptuous of your government than to storm into the U.S. Congress and scream profane insults at our lawmakers?

Sure, this is a land of freedom. But we like to think it is also a land of loyalty, patriotism and decency.

If these "students" haven't learned this in their studies, then they had better shave off their beatnik beards, scrub themselves inside and out, put on some clean clothes and go to a different school.

'It's An Entirely Different World - Like Birmingham'



By SYDNEY J. HARRIS  
Purely Personal Prejudices: To justify our dislikes, we generally say that what we dislike is contemptible or valueless; it takes a rare and large character to acknowledge that what he dislikes may be admirable but he is incapable of such appreciation.

People in villages are both kinder and crueler than people in cities: They are kinder to those who suffer misfortune through no fault of their own, but crueler to those who violate the rigid canons of the community.

Each class has its own "key words" which must be decoded in order to be fully understood; for instance, when the upper class calls a man "civil," it doesn't mean merely that he is polite—it means that he tacitly accepts the superiority of those born above him.

All genuine progress depends upon not more than a dozen individuals in each generation; and the best argument for democracy is that we can never tell from which segment of society they will arise—therefore, that system which most encourages talent to come to the surface is best, despite the clumsiness and abuses and dangers inherent in the democratic process.

The self-righteous person who is secretly proud that he does not need to ask God to forgive his sins should, from time to time, remember to ask his neighbors to "forgive my virtues." As Santayana once acutely remarked, "It is easier for a libertine to become a saint than for a prig."

Very often the woman whose ambition inspires a man to great deeds is the same one whose limitations prevent him from enjoying the fruits of his accomplishments.

The barbarism that precedes civilization is never as vicious or corrupt as the barbarism that follows it; for real bestiality, primitive societies can't compete with those that have rebelled against the restraints of civilization.

Speaking of this, it would be wise to keep in mind Ortega's astute warning: "In history, as soon as the 'man of action' puts in an appearance and is discussed and pampered, it means that a period of rebarbarization looms."

The greatest fallacy that most people make is in assuming that by opposing the "wrong" they are guaranteed of being in the

## STRICTLY PERSONAL

"right," but most wrongs are opposed by different kinds of wrongs, and it rarely occurs to ordinary minds that two conflicting principles can be false at the same time.

## Letters To The Editor

### Spenders

On Oct. 15 we go to the polls to vote on the \$60 million tax bill. I certainly will vote against it. This bill has been passed and discussed. We have been led to believe if we vote against it, disaster will be the result.

The only disaster is to the big spenders. Why don't they tell the truth about education? Why don't they admit that they have known all the time the governor couldn't take one cent of the basic school support fund. The truth is the big spenders have always wanted to scare people into voting. Yes, they are mad as us who signed the referendum petition and not giving them this \$60 million. All of a sudden the heads of several state departments now admit that they can reduce their budgets.

None of them seem to have any doubts but that they can cut their budgets and reduce waste and extravagance in departments. Never before have they admitted this. People by supporting and signing the referendum petition, so we could vote on this \$60 million dollar issue have made the big spenders stop and think. A good healthy condition.

People are paying too much tax. It's run out our ears. Too much weight on one end of a board soon upsets it, and it's a grand thing to know people are tired of being pushed around by people we vote into office on a platform of "I will keep taxes down," and they are the first to raise them.

As for schools, they have become like a horse with a bit in its mouth. It's time the people handled the reins for a while. The schools can hold down their spending too. And it will hurt no one.

I have always been under the impression all politicians were endowed with humanitarian principles, but after reading the provisions in the \$60 million income tax bill I realize how badly mistaken I was. The filing fee especially is designed to take from those that haven't and give to those who have.

Mr. Editor, if it doesn't violate political ethics, I will appreciate it if you can get the names and home addresses of each of those who opposed this bill, then come next election time I will know



WILLIAM S. WHITE . . .

## Historical Political Shift

By WILLIAM S. WHITE  
WASHINGTON—Increasingly it appears that the South and West—but notably the West, with its vast leap in political power in the years since the war—will be the great battlegrounds in the political campaign of 1964.

For the first time in our history the real center of gravity in a Presidential contest will not be in the East. Both parties are pitching their campaign tents on the westward slopes as never before they have done.

Two major reasons underlie this historic shift. The one is the root fact that the West now encompasses our biggest state in population, California, and, in general, now measures our fastest growth. The other is that the struggle for the Republican Presidential nomination is so undeniably and so strongly centering around a Westerner, Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona.

More and more it looks that if he is to be stopped for the nomination—and the "if" is a large and formidable one—the task will require an incomparably greater cohesion of purpose among the anti-Goldwater Republicans than is now either in motion or in sight. And even should the party at last turn to another in the Republican National Convention next summer, the G.O.P. will in any event have been Western-flavored and

Western-oriented as it has never been before.

And there is a third and lesser—but itself still significant—reason for this new emphasis on the great stretches beyond the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. This is the circumstance that here also is the one best hope of the Republicans to make important gains in the battle for Congress. At least seven presently Democratic Senate seats are now quite plainly up for grabs in the West. This is at once the area of greatest Democratic vulnerability and of greatest Republican opportunity in all the country.

To see how poignantly "the West" lies upon the minds and plans of the politicians in both parties it is only necessary to note that for months now the most basic of the political news has consistently been made there. The most recent illustration is the speech delivered by Sen. Frank Church of Idaho, a liberal Democrat more or less in the Kennedy model, at the Western States Democratic Conference in Salt Lake City.

Here was an ostensibly regional party meeting which was in truth a strictly national effort to begin to break both the Goldwater movement itself and the surge of conservatism—in both parties—which nearly every independent observer has found out beyond the middle of the century.

And not merely Church was there to sound the alarm at this theoretically localized affair. Weighing in was California Gov. Edmund Brown—and also John Bailey, the Democratic National Chairman, a "Westerner" from Connecticut.

Between them, these speakers set up two themes of which much more will be heard: That Goldwater, an opponent of the nuclear test-ban treaty, is the symbol of a bellicose "radical right" which might get this nation into nuclear war. That this "radical right" is about to take over the whole Republican party—and especially in the West.

To the extent to which such violent accusations might be said to have any basis they are grounded upon foolishly ultra-conservative manifestos recently adopted by a "young Republican" group in California. They are, of course, absurdly overdrawn. They are, for example, as absurdly overdrawn as would be any Republican counter-accusations that the entire Democratic party is for appeasement simply because of certain equally foolish leftist manifestos, also recently adopted, by "young Democrats" in California. All this, on both sides, is kiddie-stuff; and every political adult on both sides knows it.

But the point of the moment is this: The simple fact that such urgent action is going on in the West, more than a year ahead of the Presidential election, is the strongest possible indicator what the West has become in terms of 1964 strategy.

For nearly 200 years the thrust of party maneuver and counter-maneuver, and even the thrust of the news, has been from East to West, inevitably losing both some momentum and some power as it crossed the plains and mountains. In 1964, the movement may well be reversed—from West to East.

## 'You Can Stay But He's Gotta Go!'



## NOTHING SPECIAL

(W. B. S.)

It is hardly possible to question the legality of the recent action of our district attorney regarding his ban on gambling in Klamath County. But his judgment certainly is open to question. Persons who want to gamble will do so anyway, and there are so many ways for the serious gambler to ply his trade it is doubtful that the DA could do anything about it, anyway.

Admirable as his objective may be (and some question how admirable it is) one can't help but hope that he would practice the same diligence and direct as much energy toward control of more serious criminal elements in the county. Such as murderers, hoodlums, thieves, muggers, bad check passers, negligent fathers, etc., etc.

From the newspaper reports I read it is apparent there is quite a field of endeavor for our DA and his staff to concentrate on if they are looking for things to do.

The Oregon Statesman conducted a poll recently to see how people feel about the 1963 tax program of the legislature which will be referred to a vote Oct. 15. The poll showed readers opposed to the program almost 2 1/2 to one. Thousands of votes came in from all over the state in the Statesman's balloting.

Response to the four questions posed in the poll was as follows: Uphold legislature's

|                                     |        |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| tax program                         | 28.97% | 71.03% |
| Have governor whack biennial budget | 81.26% | 38.74% |
| Special legislative session         | 47.64% | 32.36% |
| Consider sales tax                  | 63.09% | 31.91% |

It's rather obvious that people are not so adamant against a sales tax as some of our legislators and labor union leaders want to believe they are.

A reader dropped a note in which he says "SHAME ON YOU!" for the editorial about the test ban treaty that ran Sept. 21. In it we called the document "A Worthless Treaty."

Not worthless, says our reader. And I quote, "It is very worthwhile to Russia. Sections 1 and 2 provide that at any time a majority of the concurring nations can amend this treaty, and this, or these amendments become binding upon all parties. The treaty is also without time limit. "Shortly it will not be safe to be pro-American unless we change those in power."

Amen.

Esquire Theatre management people have come up with a wonderful schedule of movies this fall. They have six wonderful pictures based on famed books. They include "Captains Courageous" (Rudyard Kipling), "David Copperfield" (Charles Dickens), "The Good Earth" (Pearl Buck), "Julius Caesar" (Shakespeare), "Little Women" (Louisa May Alcott) and "A Tale of Two Cities" (Dickens).

The pictures will carry all-star casts, and will do much, I'm sure, to dissipate somewhat the idea that movies carry nothing nowadays except sex stories.

From the way things are going, we can expect any day now the announcement that Khrushchev is really a Western intelligence agent.



## WASHINGTON CALLING . . .

## Congressional 'Bagmen'

By MARQUIS CHILDS  
WASHINGTON—There's a lion in the streets and his name is Edwin P. Neilan.

While he has been president of the United States Chamber of Commerce less than five months, Neilan has stirred more of an uproar than the staid chamber has heard in many years. He says he is going right on regardless of how heavy the barrage of brickbats aimed at him by Congress.

The roar of the chamber against government is so familiar a sound that it has come to be taken for granted. What is new about Neilan is that he seems to be genuinely shocked at the iniquities of big federal spending and its effect on the vote-getting process. And he reacted with hurt surprise when leading members of Congress attacked him for his initial blast.

That was his National Press Club speech in which he said that vote buying and selling in this country was infinitely more immoral than British's call girl and security scandal. Apparently it had not occurred to this Delaware banker that he would be denounced for such a sweeping accusation. But the denunciations began on the floor of the Senate and the House, on the basis of advance texts, even before he had made the speech.

It is to be reprinted in The Reader's Digest which will give it extensive additional circulation. And Neilan has been going around the country making the same charges and lecturing his audiences on the wickedness of Congressional "bagmen" who grab for their share of spending in area redevelopment, accelerated public works and other federal programs.

Thus far Neilan has made only glancing references to the benefits that business gets from government in the form of huge cost-plus contracts in defense and space. This type of spending is on a far larger scale and a pattern has grown up in the Department of Defense and the space agency

of giving Senators and Congressmen the right to make the first announcement of new contracts going to their areas.

Even when he spoke in Seattle, Wash., one of the principal beneficiaries of defense contracts, Neilan made only a passing reference to the cushion of defense contracts supporting a sizable segment of American industry. But he says he intends in future speeches to tell business that it's time to end the subsidies and regain its independence.

Nor has he so far talked about what is perhaps not only the biggest federal grab bag but one that cuts directly across the authority of the states and local communities. This is the \$41 billion federal highway program. The federal government pays for 90 per cent of the construction cost. But for this carrot states and cities surrender the right to say how and where their highways will be built. The program has the backing of autos, oil and cement which is a powerful chunk of private industry.

Neilan is speaking next week to the Defense Transportation Industry convention in Chicago. This offers, as he is well aware, a splendid opportunity to talk about the dependence of industry on vast defense spending.

A novelty in the Neilan approach is the way he bends over backward to try to be fair. In his Seattle speech he said, almost wistfully, "Although I am relatively new in Washington I have the impression that things today are not far different than they were when the Republicans were in power."

As he noted in his first attack, the constant demands on members of Congress from back home, coming both from state and city governments and from industry, take more and more of the lawmaker's attention. He has less and less time, said Neilan, to give to our real national interests and the national problems involved.

As the tourist to Washington discovers from a visit to the Capitol, only on rare occasions are there more than a scattering of

members on the floor of either house. You can be sure a number of the absentees are scouting around the agencies, as likely as not on the prompting of the chamber of commerce back home, to nail down funds for a new sewer system or a defense plant.

This may be a battle against the windmills by a Don Quixote come at a late hour to the full centralized government. Much of the Neilan target area is the old familiar one covering all government spending and invoking the familiar fetish of a balanced budget. But, windmills or no, the battle shows no signs of calling it off.

## Almanac

By United Press International  
Today is Thursday, Oct. 3, the 276th day of 1963 with 89 to follow.

The moon is full.  
The morning stars are Mercury and Jupiter.  
The evening stars are Jupiter and Saturn.

Those born today include the American novelist, Thomas Wolfe, in 1900.

On this day in history:  
In 1922, Mrs. Rebecca Felton, a Georgia Democrat, was appointed to the U. S. Senate and became the first woman to serve in that body.

In 1935, Italy, under dictator Benito Mussolini, launched an unprovoked invasion of Ethiopia.

In 1960, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev wrecked a Paris summit meeting when he said he would meet with President Eisenhower only if he admitted American U-2 flights over Russia were acts of aggression.

In 1962, 20 persons were killed and 93 injured when a boiler exploded in a telephone building in New York City.

## BERRY'S WORLD



"If we buy this, Kennedy won't be the only one with a 'Balance of Payments' problem."