

Editorial Page

Dropout Problem Complex

The high school "dropout" problem is arousing national concern — among educators, business people, government officials, just about everyone who has an awareness of the needs of this fast-changing age. President Kennedy has spoken of it, and proposed that a special study be made. It is a problem which is most acute in the major population centers, where reports say that dropouts average an astonishing and ominous 25 per cent, but it is certainly not confined to them. The smaller communities and the rural areas are faced with it too.

There have always been substantial numbers of young people who failed to complete high school, so, in that sense, the problem is not new. But, in a simpler age, those with very limited educations had far more opportunity to find jobs and earn at least a marginal living. Nowadays young people who leave school before gaining special skills too frequently become not only unemployed, but unemployable. They, with wives and children, drift onto the relief and public welfare rolls.

Various solutions to the problem are being tried or proposed. They range a wide gamut, from outright pleas to young people to complete their high school education to demands that the government step in and do something drastic about it. And various localities, to their honor, are taking positive steps on their own hook. One of these is Bedford, Ohio, which, some years ago, instituted an intensified industrial-education-vocational program in its schools with the cooperation of local industry and the local Rotary Club.

The basic objectives of the Bedford plan were made clear at the start. One was to create an incentive for the students to learn. Another was to create a goal for the students to reach, and to impress upon them that su-

perior accomplishment would ease their path into the business world. Still another was to stress the excellent facilities of the local high school, and to improve those facilities with contributions of discarded material, equipment and tools from industry. The primary goal was to see to it that the student would have the foundation needed to assure him of an interesting and worthwhile job.

Industry has responded enthusiastically—more than a million dollars worth of equipment has been contributed. While the program places emphasis on the machine shop, courses are available in other fields — architecture, drafting, graphic arts, and so on. Plans are underway for expansion into the mechanical and electronic areas. Whatever the particular course, students enjoy it—simply because they see how the subjects taught have real meaning and purposefulness. Superior performance receives recognition at an annual banquet when awards are presented and thus a spirit of competition among the learners is maintained.

The proof of the pudding, of course, is in the eating. So, as a practical matter, it's fair to ask just how well the plan has worked. The answer is reassuring — accomplishment records of the young people have been excellent. And requests from industry for graduates have actually exceeded the number graduating.

Bedford, in sum, faced up to the dropout problem years ago and tackled it without waiting for the state or federal government or any other agency or institution to do the needed job for it. The result, it seems, has been maximum result at minimum cost. Other communities, one can safely say, could profitably take a leaf from Bedford's book.



BRUCE SHANKS, BUFFALO EVENING NEWS



WASHINGTON REPORT . . .

Russia Still Owes Lend-Lease Outlay

By FULTON LEWIS JR.
WASHINGTON — Pay up or shut up.

That is the reply of Congressman John Pillion to Soviet traders who ask for increased commerce with the United States. The New York Republican, one of Congress' best experts on the Communist threat, points out that the Soviet Union owes Uncle Sam almost \$3 billion. The debt dates back to World War II when this country shipped large quantities of lend-lease material to the Soviet Union. The goods, both military and civilian, came to more than \$11 billion and they continued to flow east at the war's end.

In a burst of generosity, the U.S. wrote off all military items delivered during the war except naval vessels. We announced, too, that virtually all consumer goods were considered gifts.

Discussions on settling the lend-lease debt took place in 1947 and 1948 at which time the United States fixed the bill at \$2.6 billion. In order to expedite settlement, the bill was cut in half to \$1.3 billion and then later to \$800 million. The Soviets gallantly offered \$170 million. In 1951, they said they would pay \$240 million, and in 1952 raised the figure to \$300 million.

Lend-lease negotiations, dormant since 1952, were revived after the Camp David meeting of President Eisenhower and Premier Khrushchev in 1959. At that conference, Khrushchev reportedly assured Ike that the lend-lease debt would be quickly cleared up.

Negotiations began in Washington on Jan. 11, 1960, with Soviet Ambassador Mikhail Menshikov leading the Red team and Charles Bohlen heading up the U.S. representatives. Within two weeks, however, it was obvious the Soviets had no intention of serious talk. They demanded a trade agreement and long-term credits. Bohlen said the lend-lease debt would have to be taken care of first. The Russians said no. The talks broke off Jan. 27 and have not yet resumed.

Rep. Pillion says it is inconceivable to him that the State Department can push a wheat

deal while the Soviets have made no attempt to pay an outstanding debt. This policy, Pillion says, will strengthen the Soviet political position and bolster its sagging economy. The sale can "not appreciably aid the critical balance of payments deficit because the Soviets will not pay in gold. Russian gold is reserved for the purchase of European industrial machinery and raw materials from the British Commonwealth."

Note: Sen. Bill Proxmire, Wisconsin Democrat, says we should insist that the USSR tear down the Berlin wall or agree to on-site nuclear inspection before it can buy U.S. wheat. Rep. Steve Derouin, New York Republican, takes a similar position. He says the Russians must remove their troops and military hardware from Cuba before approval for a wheat sale is given.

There are more than 1,000 aged and crippled persons who toil 10 hours a day building roads in the town of Carnauba in northeastern Brazil. For this they receive 45 cents a week plus small quantities of beans, rice and flour.

The food used as partial wages was given to the Brazilian government by the American people under Public Law 480 which set up the Food for Peace program.

The above information was relayed to Rep. Gene Snyder by a missionary stationed in Brazil. He enclosed an article from one of Brazil's leading publications which said that the U.S. food was in "deplorable condition, some being rotten and all looking bad."

Rep. Snyder asked officials of the Agency for International Development for comment and received a long, rambling, evasive letter that he calls "completely unsatisfactory."

The cruel and inhuman distribution of rotten foodstuffs to starving Brazilians, Snyder says, is another indication that the Ugly American is still at work.



WILLIAM S. WHITE . . .

Foreign Policy Strife

By WILLIAM S. WHITE
WASHINGTON — Friction between President Kennedy and the Congressional Republicans over foreign policy is becoming the most serious fact of political life in 1963.

Almost certainly a widening and progressively more embittered partisan dispute over the proper conduct of the cold war will persist into the Presidential election year of 1964. The strong probability is rising that in this field of issues the contest between Kennedy and whoever the Republicans may nominate will make the Kennedy-Nixon dialogue of 1960 look tame indeed in retrospect.

Basically, the argument is settling down into two increasingly divergent party positions. Kennedy is making a continuing effort to reach separate accommodations with the Soviet Union on secondary matters — the nuclear test ban, the deal for wheat — in the hope that these may foreshadow Soviet willingness to give some ground on such really capital issues as Berlin, Cuba and the like.

The Republicans, on their side, are developing a steadily hardening position against such peripheral settlements with the Russians unless and until they have shown some genuine desire to make concessions on those capital issues.

As the President's approaches are becoming increasingly bold — as he moves almost immediately from the test-ban agreement to the sale of wheat to relieve Soviet shortages — the Republicans are becoming increasingly tough in their opposition.

For example, the country now hears a louder and more determined Republican outcry against the wheat deal than against the earlier test-ban pact. This is in spite of the fact that the nuclear accommodation poses infinitely the greater danger of Soviet trickery and notwithstanding the fact that the Republicans have far closer ties with the presumed economic beneficiary of that sale, the Farm Belt, than do the Democrats.

Though there has been a scattered G.O.P. rank-and-file at-

tack upon this or that Kennedy foreign policy from the beginning, the party leaders in Congress have on the whole remained in an essentially bipartisan posture until recently.

The armistice, however, is now very clearly a thing of the past. Senate Republican leader Everett Dirksen of Illinois and House Republican leader Charles Halleck of Indiana have joined forces in a major assault upon President Kennedy not simply for making the wheat deal but for his whole conduct of affairs in Latin America.

Halleck accuses the President of having ignored the clearly expressed intent of Congress against the sale of subsidized American farm products to Communist nations. Dirksen asserts that the President has been unduly fond of leftist-democratic regimes in Latin America.

Kennedy's recent indication of official hostility to military coups against dangerously ineffectual "liberal" regimes in

Honduras and the Dominican Republic has further stirred the Republicans. This Republican concern is particularly acute—and indeed understandably so—because these coups were plainly intended to avoid the possibility that obvious weaknesses in the old "liberal" regimes would invite Communist takeovers.

In short, the President is more and more alienating Congressional Republicans on nearly every aspect of foreign policy the closer he comes to his campaign for re-election.

And the very nature of the argument is, on the Republican side, doing two things: It is drawing the Republicans into something they have thus far not had—a strong unity of resistance. And it is steadily promoting the prospect that their 1964 nominee will in fact be Sen. Barry Goldwater, if only because he of all the G.O.P. possibilities most nearly symbolizes an all-out opposition to nearly the whole of the Kennedy stance in the cold war.



TOM LITTLE, NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN



IN WASHINGTON . . .

REA No Longer Needed

By RALPH de TOLEDANO

One of the prime laws of politics seems to be that all bureaucracies are self-perpetuating and bureaucratic agencies are immortal. Since the days when the New Deal sanctified the alphabet and gave us one new agency after another, the Congress has struggled to repeal this law. But it has been, in almost every case, a losing battle.

Now Congress is trying again. Its target—or rather, the target of those legislators who take their duties seriously—is the Rural Electrification Administration, which has long ceased to serve the need for which it was created but grows larger and more expensive each year.

I have written about REA before, if only because it is such an obvious example of bureaucratic immortality. But now the American Enterprise Institute, a public policy research organization, has issued an informative pamphlet which states the facts and allows the reader to come to his own conclusions. The story it tells should be of some concern to those who see the national debt rise like yeast in a cake.

The REA, it will be recalled, was set up by Executive Order of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935. Its basic purpose was to create work for the unemployed—still unrescued by the New Deal. Its announced mission was to bring electrification to the 80 per cent of America's farms not receiving central-station electrical service.

Few would quarrel with this aim. Electrification was needed, and since many of the farms were in areas which the power companies could not reach without heavy loss, the government was offering to step in. But what has happened since then?

Twenty eight years and \$4.6 billion later, the REA is still in business. It has branched out into all kinds of new fields, spending \$900 million on a telephone loan program alone. Though today more than 90 per cent of all American farms have central-station electric power, REA is still clamoring for more of the taxpayers' money. Some of it has gone to finance ski slopes at winter sports resorts.

The farmer was to be the recipient of REA's bounty. But

with the agency running out of farmers, it has begun financing tax-favored cooperatives which now sell their power to rural non-farm people, suburbanites, and industrial and commercial enterprises. Three out of four new customers buying power are getting it from REA-financed systems. According to the law which set up REA, it was to concern itself solely with the distribution of electricity. Now it is sprawling into the field of generation and transmission, to which 60 per cent of its loans go. Potential power users can now go to REA for loans to set themselves up in business, if they buy REA power.

REA borrows money from the Treasury at about half what it lends it out to these power cooperatives and businesses seeking capitalization. The cooperatives are exempt from all Federal and most state taxes—which means that the Treasury is twice deprived—yet they are not as efficient as the private power companies. In fact, any system of accounting shows that their real costs are higher than those of private companies. Sub-

sidies to REA-created cooperatives have not helped them to do any better than an average yield of 1.3 per cent on total assets.

There is, however, more than a little method of REA's madness. For as it expands and competes with private power—which it can do only because of tax exemption and direct government subsidies—it begins to lay the groundwork for that dream of the socialists. They would like to see all the nation's power companies—the vast complex which gives this country more electric power than any other nation in the world—owned and controlled by the Federal government.

From time to time, there is talk of a nationwide "power grid" run from Washington. It sounds very pretty on paper. But it is one more step down the road to socialism. REA is part of this dream of the bureaucrats. Congress has tried to do what it can—but there is always pressure from the Administration and from the bureaucrats to give REA a free hand. This year's try will undoubtedly suffer the same fate.

BERRY'S WORLD



"I think I'm going to enjoy investigating the underworld!"



STRICTLY PERSONAL

By SYDNEY J. HARRIS

Perhaps the two most influential men of the 20th Century—in terms of changing the moral and intellectual climate of our times—have been Einstein and Freud.

Yet, by the paradox that always accompanies their kind of greatness, neither of them is really understood, not only by the masses, but even by the majority of educated people.

Of course, their technical theories need not be understood; what I mean is that not even their basic premises are grasped accurately and clearly. To most people, Einstein said, "Everything is relative," and Freud said, "Everything is sex."

Both these statements are totally false, and would have horrified the men to whom they are ascribed. Leaving Einstein aside for the moment, let us consider the widespread distortion of Freud's view into "Everything is sex."

Freud showed that many things we do not commonly think of as "sexual" are sexual in origin; but he also demonstrated the contrary — that "pseudo-sexuality" is one of the

prime ways in which the disturbed or immature personality tries to come to terms (unsuccessfully, of course) with its conflicts. This is why, as he pointed out, there is no real joy or lasting satisfaction in such compulsive behavior.

The finest tribute humanity can pay its great men is to understand them. Instead, they are venerated or condemned, out of blind admiration or blind ignorance; which is why Freud said, "I am not a Freudian."

What we have forgotten — if we have ever known it — is that Freud also demonstrated the opposite; that, in neurosis, what often seems to be sexual conduct is not really sexual at all. Take, for example, patterns of adultery and promiscuity. These certainly seem to be motivated by sexual drives. Yet, in many if not most cases, the sexual "acting out" is merely a symptom of other discontents and dissatisfactions.

Of the people who behave this way, relatively few are driven by genuinely sexual needs. They are enslaved by infantile fears or conflicts never resolved within themselves—and their sexual misconduct is simply a symptom of their deeply unconscious problems.



WASHINGTON CALLING . . .

Hurricane Aftermath

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON—With the Cuban economy already strained almost to the breaking point, Hurricane Flora has put a new burden on the Castro regime that could prove fatal.

This comes at a time when relations with Moscow are embittered and the Communist bloc is itself under the necessity of importing a large volume of food for hard-won gold. As his troubles multiply Fidel Castro shows an increasingly sulky and rebellious face to all the world with the possible exception of Red China.

Can the Soviet Union continue to make up the deficits that are far more acute in the aftermath of Flora? And how long can the regime survive without a far greater volume of help? These are pressing questions as the anniversary of the great Cuban confrontation of a year ago approaches.

A careful survey by top intelligence authorities shows how high the cost of the Khrushchev adventure has been to the Soviet Union. This has been especially true in shipping. In addition to its own ships Moscow has had to scrape the bottom of the barrel to charter other vessels to carry cargoes to and from Cuba.

The volume of this tonnage has not appreciably declined in recent months. But it has become more and more costly as many ships have had to go in ballast to pick up cargoes of sugar. They have also, according to intelligence reports, had to sail from Cuban ports in ballast as the sugar crop failed by a wide margin to come up to expectations. And estimates are that up to half the current sugar crop has been destroyed by Hurricane Flora.

One major change in the situation the President finds greatly encouraging. As a result of

strong and persistent pressure the volume of free world shipping has sharply declined. In the first nine months of last year 750 free world ships called at Cuban ports.

For the first nine months of 1963 the figure was 250. Of this number 100 were of British register and most of the balance were Greek and Lebanese. Greece has now put a stop to this trade over the angry protest of Greek shipowners and while there is a dispute about the constitutionality of the government order it will stand in any event for two years. Greek arrivals had totalled 80 ships.

To several Western visitors with whom he talked just before and during the nuclear test-ban negotiations Premier Khrushchev said that all organized Soviet combat units had been withdrawn from Cuba. The only Russian military remaining were training cadres and they would leave when their mission was completed.

Reports have persisted that Khrushchev has privately promised to complete the withdrawal by a deadline of Oct. 21. This would be announced on or before that date, marking the anniversary of the showdown when the world came so close to nuclear war. It would be on the assumption that the training of Cuban forces to use anti-aircraft and other weapons had been completed.

The Soviet action of a year ago has quite a different look today than it had then. In the light of present knowledge it is seen to have been a desperate expedient to try to make up for the nuclear superiority of the United States. Intermediate-range ballistic missiles secretly stationed in Cuba were to compensate for the growing preponderance of America's long-range Minute Men and Polaris submarines. A gamble of incalculable recklessness opened up the gulf of nuclear annihilation.

With the missiles removed the threat of Castroism remains what it has been from the beginning—as example and tutor to the revolutionary forces of Latin America. And it is here that the political dilemma of Washington becomes acute, with one democratic regime after another pushed over by the military. Uncle Sam seems to be either impotent or privately a part to these betrayals.

All this is grist to the Castro propaganda mill. Cuban exiles, who fled when they saw that far from believing in freedom and independence Castro was making Cuba a satellite of Moscow, are deeply disillusioned by these developments. As one of the most thoughtful of the exiled leaders put it:

"If it comes to a choice between a dictatorship of the right and a dictatorship of the left we shall choose the left because at least it seems to offer some hope of chance."

One of the few voices raised in recent months to express concern about the long-range future of a democratic Cuba was that of Sen. James Pearson (R., Kan.). He proposed that the Organization of American States go to work to prepare a blueprint for the political and economic life of a free Cuba following the fall of the dictator. When Castro goes, the struggle will have just begun. To fail to realize this is to insure a tragic repetition of the tragic past.

Almanac

By United Press International
Today is Wednesday, Oct. 16 the 293rd day of 1963 with 76 to follow.

The moon is approaching its new phase.

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

On this day in history:

In 1848, the first operation with a patient under ether anesthesia was performed at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

In 1859, Abolitionist John Brown staged a raid on Harper's Ferry, Va., seizing a hotel, arsenal, firehouse and 30 townspeople.

In 1934, Chinese Communists began their "long march" to the northwest where they established headquarters and planned to continue the attack against the Nationalist forces of Chiang Kai-shek.

A thought for the day — The Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius said: "Receive wealth or position without arrogance, and be ready to let it go."