Editorial Page

Planter Boxes

It seems a shame that during an early morning foray the other day, the city came along and carried off several planter boxes on Main Street.

Granted, in this season of the year, the trees look pretty scrawny and the boxes might be rotting or need painting. And they might be filled with candy wrappers and other debris because these decorative pieces often are used for trash cans; nevertheless we feel the merchants along the street should have been warned that there was an incurable problem and that action was forthcoming if the problem wasn't solved.

But just moving in and carrying the boxes away is not the best way to make friends and influence people along the main stem.

Maybe the planter boxes with the evergreen trees growing from therein is not the very best program of municipal esthetics. But it was a start toward giving Main Street added class. Trees growing on prime thoroughfares of any community are attractive. Some cities and towns around the country accomplish the same lustre through hanging baskets, mounted either on steel light poles or from marquees on business establishments. And when these baskets are full of blooming flowers, it is something to see. Both local residents and visitors alike appreciate them.

Now if the tree boxes are not satisfactory, it would seem a logical time for the city, with the cooperation of the merchants' association, the Chamber of Commerce, garden clubs and art groups, to come up with an idea that will enhance the appearance of Main and possibly other downtown streets.

Our suggestion would be trees growing right out of the ground at sidewalk level. Trees that have been found practical for this use and preferably not evergreens. Certainly landscape experts and nursrymen would know which type of tree is best for our climate and soil conditions. We'd guess the merchants would be willing to finance the planting but believe the maintenance should be the city's job.

Liquor Agents Praised

Oregon Liquor Control agents rate a pat on the back for their efforts in apprehending adults selling liquor to minors.

They brought in another offender the other day and he promptly was given a stiff $150 fine and four months in the county jail.

This is one of those cases where a person has been using his home as a point of sale for the liquor being purchased by youngsters and it was described by Control Commission agents as a "major source" of liquor for minors.

Congratulations to the agents and good hunting. Their constant vigilance will cut the supply short and prevent a lot of youths from getting into hot water, mentally, morally and physically.

WILLIAM S. WHITE . . .

LBJ Supports Rusk, Contrary To Rumors

WASHINGTON—The topmost rank of American policy-makers in the cold war in general, and in the hot war in Viet Nam in particular, is absolutely trusted and absolutely satisfactory, without qualification or so much as a chemical trace of mental reservation, so far as President Johnson is concerned.

It is no news that Johnson is totally behind Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, whom the President regards as bearing in Viet Nam alone a burden even more punishing than that of Secretary of State Dean Rusk. Everybody has long since accepted the fact that the President is simply not going to let McNamara go if he can help it.

It also ought not to be news that Johnson is totally behind Secretary of State Rusk. In this case, nevertheless, it is news. For Rusk has been the patient target of an almost ceaseless rumor - mongering since the early days of the Kennedy Administration, the burden of these rumors being that he is "on the way out."

What "they" say—and have said, and said, and said—about his imminent departure would, if published form a whole library of idle gossip.

Why this is so—why it is always Rusk's name that is plucked out of the air when people chatter about possible Cabinet shuffles—is one of the small mysteries of Washington. One thought during the Kennedy Administration that perhaps it was because the Secretary stood aloof from the more frantic of the late President's idolators — as, indeed, President Kennedy himself did so far as he could—and was no part of the whiz kid group that saw itself as we happy few.

But the thing still goes on; and so the mystery persists. If he is not notably warm or easy to know—and indeed he is not —Rusk is not in any event a fellow to go out of his way to make enemies. Nor does he join in palace intrigues or the whispering cabals of the cocktail circuit.

So far as this observer can make out, he simply and quietly does his job—a circumstance that in no way spares him from being simultaneously called too soft and too cold, too timid and too bold, too this and too that.

At the moment, the baying of the hounds of rumor is higher than usual because of President Johnson's elevation of Thomas C. Mann to be Under Secretary of State. Mann, it is said, is "an old Texas friend" of the President; ergo, Rusk is going out and Mann is going into the top job. The facts, for those interested in facts, are as follows:

Item. Mann is indeed a valued friend of the President, but a new one and not an old one. They came together not on the banks of the Rio Grande or the Pedernales in some distant decade but only while Johnson was Vice President and Mann was doing a first-rate career diplomatic job for President Kennedy as he earlier had done for President Eisenhower. Mann's Texas birthplace is as irrelevant here as is, say, the color of his hair.

Item. Far from being a "rival" to Rusk, Mann has invariably supported his superior, and Rusk in turn has twice recommended Mann to the President, first for an assistant secretaryship of State and now for the undersecretaryship.

Item. Johnson, it may be stated on the highest possible authority, is determined to keep Dean Rusk as Secretary of State just so long as a man named Lyndon Johnson is President and Rusk is willing to stay. The President not only trusts and admires Rusk. He likes him; and, as the saying goes, he feels easy with him.

This, too, can be said with certainty: The President is beginning to think that some people are trying to push him into getting rid of Rusk, and the President doesn't like this sort of thing at all. The more critics try to elbow Rusk out, the more solidly they are going to get him in—if he could be in any more solidly than he is now, which he could not.

Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Friday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 1965 with 315 to follow.

The moon is approaching its last phase.

The morning star is Mars.

The evening star is Jupiter.

On this day in history:

In 1878, Thomas Edison received a patent for his invention of the phonograph.

In 1941, Radio Berlin's propaganda division short-waved an appeal to the United States to send messages collect to Germany. More than one-thousand Americans responded, most of whom were highly critical of the Nazi regime.

In 1945, U.S. Marines landed on Iwo Jima beginning a bloody battle for the Japanese-held island.

FRANK'S WORLD

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"Don't count on restraint in the use of power!"

BRUCE BIOSSAT . . .

Our Enemies Roar; Where Are Our Friends?

WASHINGTON (NEA)—Making strong impact upon this capital is the astonishing thinness of the verbal defenses being raised in Southeast Asia on behalf of the United States.

The play is going to the ink-throwing, jeering demonstrators who respond with mindless efficiency at the touch of a Communist button, and to those more thoughtful people who nevertheless see either nearly total error or evil purpose, or both, in the course this country is following.

In the worst of it, Americans are assassins, imperialists, neo-colonialists. In milder vein, we are stupid or misguided meddlers in other people's affairs; we are vastly over-extended in our efforts to help other nations around the world; we are blithely indifferent to the need for negotiating — insistent, instead, upon "bombing Asians" in a way sure to bring on a wider war.

Where, some men in government are asking, are the voices here and abroad to proclaim that there is another side to this story?

Our too-silent defenders could begin by running up the list of real postwar imperialists, great and petty, who have been fraudulently dressing their larger-than-national designs in the language of the developing people's legitimate aspirations.

The new imperialists are, of course, dominated by the men in Moscow and Peking. Even the most gullible in the emerging nations sometimes take fright when they glimpse occasionally the naked crudity of the purpose of those men.

The petty imitators who fill out the roster of today's imperialists must inevitably include Sukarno of Indonesia, Nasser of Egypt, Ben Bella of Algeria, Ho Chi Minh of North Viet Nam, Castro of Cuba.

Not one of these leaders confines himself to advancing the legitimate aspirations of his own people. All are engaged in one kind or another of mischief-making for which there is no warrant in international law and morality.

Even if they never uttered a word of communism's patent fakery, these small caliber imperialists would, in their callous misuse of honest human concern for betterment, stand convicted of unrivaled hypocrisy and cynicism.

To those in Asia, Africa, Latin America who wish to resist this ugly new imperialism, the United States is today almost the only firm respondent.

It has thrown its men and its resources into the manifold tasks of resistance around the globe with a rough-and-ready nobility that is without precedent in human history.

Twenty years ago this country ended World War II as a triumphant world power almost completely uninitiated in the complexities of world leadership. Events thrust it to the free world's pinnacle.

Green at the game, being as much a collection of imperfect human beings as any other nation, America has sometimes lost its footing at the peak of power. It has overstressed a military response, or been obsessed with communism as the "only enemy," or failed to understand the people it sought to help.

Even in a stable period of history, a nation newly come to leadership would surely commit many mistakes.

But America's rise to stewardship is part of an incredible triple juncture in history. The other two forces meeting it are the revolution of the underprivileged and subject peoples, and the push of the militant new imperialists, big and little, to exploit these peoples for their own grasping purpose.

Today's sideline sitters, Britain and France, are quick with advice for us. Yet their 20th century record, bracketing the two great wars, hardly tells of distinctive triumph — either in perpetually troubled Europe or the stirring continents beyond. France's ineptitude in Indochina gave us the almost hopeless legacy with which we struggle in South Viet Nam right now.

America makes mistakes. It may try to do too much. But it acts with steady bravery and unparalleled vigor to advance humanity's best causes.

In a moment of crisis when clamoring world pictures of this country are of a wicked assassin or a fumbling giant, it is fair to ask:

"Where are the others who say they share humanity's great goals?"

Business Is Booming

FULTON LEWIS JR. . . .

Solon Reopens Fight On Mail Order Guns

WASHINGTON—In the weeks that followed the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, there arose a national furor over the ease with which almost anyone could purchase a gun.

Fifteen months have since elapsed and it is no more difficult for a madman, a criminal, or a child, to buy a gun than it was in November, 1963.

More than a dozen bills have been introduced in Congress to curb the sale of deadly weapons. The Senate Judiciary Committee last year approved legislation sponsored by Connecticut Sen. Tom Dodd to regulate the sale of mail order weapons. It then died a quiet death in the commerce committee. Senator Dodd was outraged, saying:

"This is a victory for the gunrunners, the hoodlums, the crackpots and the self-styled vigilantes in this country. This is a setback for the sensible control of interstate traffic in dangerous weapons. But it is only a temporary setback."

Senator Dodd has reopened the fight. The veteran investigators of his Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency are now probing the sale not only of handguns and rifles but of machine guns, bazookas, and anti-tank weapons.

There is considerable evidence that extremist groups of the left and right have amassed huge arsenals. Sheriff Frank Bland of San Bernardino, Calif., last August arrested four Black Muslims and seized more than a score of rifles and 3,500 rounds of ammunition. He disclosed that radical groups throughout Southern California were building up stores of weapons and ammunition.

The Minutemen, a radical right extremist group, claim 25,000 members throughout the nation. Organized into quasi-military outfits, they are pledged to the use of "psychopolitical weapons, infiltration, subversion and espionage" in battling the Communist agents they see everywhere.

Note: The Dodd legislation would prohibit the shipment of mail order guns to youngsters under 18 and to ex-convicts. It would require a more stringent federal regulation of mail order gun dealers.

The bill has bipartisan support. Both Everett Dirksen, the Republican Senate leader, and Mike Mansfield, the Democratic leader, have endorsed the Dodd proposals. Even the National Rifle Association is backing the bill.

Senator Dodd reveals that more than five million foreign guns were imported during the period 1959-1963. The foreign weapons are relatively inexpensive and are often sold, he says, to "juveniles, convicted felons and undesirable adults."

"The indiscriminate sale of these firearms has resulted in accidental tragedies including loss of life and serious injury," Senator Dodd continues. "Additionally, these firearms have been used in the commission of serious crimes."

A large percentage of those purchasing mail order guns are convicted criminals. At least 25 per cent of the District of Columbia buyers, for instance, had arrest records ranging up to and including murder. The five local police precincts with the highest crime rates, moreover, are the same five precincts with the highest number of mail order gun deliveries.

In Chicago, at least a quarter of those buying mail order guns possess criminal records ranging up to homicide. And 95 per cent of the mail order guns sold by one large firm have not been registered with the Chicago police, as required by law.

Senator Dodd can boast powerful support for legislation curbing the sale of mail order guns. A Gallup poll published earlier this month showed that Americans by 3-1 favor a law that would require a police permit before a person could buy a gun.

And gun owners, by a margin of 3-2, agreed.

DON OAKLEY . . .

The Helping Hand

If there is any one characteristic that can be called uniquely American, it is, in the opinion of one man, our "spirit of voluntarism"—our peculiar readiness not only to lend help to others who ask for it but to go out into the world and seek those who need help.

The man ought to know. He is Frank L. Goffio, executive director of CARE, a private, non-governmental organization without parallel in any other country or any other time.

Were it not for this voluntarism on the part of Americans, CARE would never have come into existence, and what began with emergency food packages to Europe after World War II would not now encompass the entire world with a variety of aid programs.

A similar voluntary organization is MEDICO, organized in 1958 by Dr. Peter D. Comanduras and the late Dr. Thomas A. Dooley. In 1962, CARE and MEDICO merged, with the latter becoming "a service of CARE."

Today a total of 54 men and women are overseas on two-year team assignments in countries that are at least a generation behind western medicine—sometimes centuries behind. Another 100 or so volunteer specialists are slated for short-term duty to augment the teams or conduct projects in their specialties.

CARE-MEDICO is currently in the midst of a $1 million campaign to pay for programs which will benefit an estimated 600,000 people this year, at an average cost of $5 a person.

The funds will cover the work of American and Canadian doctors, nurses and technologists involved in 18 projects in nine countries.

More important in the long run, though, is MEDICO's training of local personnel. Last summer, for example, a five-year orthopedic project in Jordan was turned over to Jordanian surgeons who were trained by Americans.

Thus CARE-MEDICO's ultimate goal is to make itself superfluous in the world. That goal will not soon be reached, however.

"For lack of polio inoculation, thousands of children are crippled," says Goffio. "For lack of proper treatment, countless men and women are blinded or paralyzed by nerve injuries. Literally millions of people are debilitated by malaria, tuberculosis, intestinal parasites — diseases modern medicine can prevent or cure."

RALPH McGILL . . .

Trampled By Impatient Feet

Washington Notebook—Those big boom-boom-boom sounds we hear out in the unearpeted corridors of time are made by the impatient feet of change, which, like the gods of the mountains, has big feet of stone. Such feet can really give one a good trampling. We have moved slowly to the point where change is going to do some trampling in the international situation within the limits of this year and next.

All the diplomatic advice from Africa is that we carefully refrain from becoming any more deeply involved in the affairs of the Congo. That vast area, the central, strategic point of Africa, has long poisoned politics and emotions of that still largely unknown continent.

The late Patrice Lumumba was bad for Africa. His ambitions and his ethics both were corrupted. Yet, such was his personality and power with words that he became a dominant personality. He then was assassinated, presumably by Moise Tshombe's men. Tshombe, at the time, was a rebel in Katanga. The killing came at just the moment that assured Lumumba of being revered as a martyr. He is now the folk hero for most of Africa. In many places pictures of him have become items of worship. A cult has grown up about his name. Actually, he was such a bad one that some members of his own family refused to follow him and shared common fear of him.

Tshombe, then supported by Belgian industrial mining interests, managed to make himself perhaps the one African most widely detested by other Africans. His name became literally a hissing and a curse, especially for the younger leaders and intellectuals who supply leadership.

That Tshombe is an able man is not discounted. He now has come to the top in the Congo. Recently he managed to collect from his old masters, the mining interests, whom he served so well, a substantial sum running into the millions. If he wisely uses some of the money to pay his soldiers and to bribe the chiefs of the major ethnic groups, he will vastly strengthen his position. But even this will not destroy, or even ameliorate, the hatred of him nursed by his African contemporaries.

Tshombe's effective use of foreign mercenaries has, of course, stimulated that dislike. The world properly was shocked by the insane brutalities of the rebel simbas. Their killing and torturing of missionary nuns, priests and ministers and their slaughter of fellow Africans, especially the small educated class in villages they overran, created universal unforgettable horror. What is not generally known outside Africa is that the mercenaries, who are also brutal and callous, have ruthlessly killed and tortured many thousands of people on their own. Africans resent the fact that mercenaries are in some places looked upon as heroes rather than equated with the rebels as callous killers. The realism of the situation is, however, that Tshombe would have been overthrown but for his mercenaries.

African soldiers of both the government and the rebels were out of a pagan background and were strongly influenced by what we call witchcraft, but which is something much deeper and more meaningful in the ancient culture of those not yet reached by modern learning and teaching, which replace pagan religions and beliefs. Soldiers of both armies believed it was possible to protect men from bullets with charms. Last week, for example, a famous practitioner of juju—or witchcraft, in our semantics—solemnly announced the government troops now would win because the rebels had exhausted the protection formerly given juju rituals.

Meanwhile, across most of Africa, the United States is blamed for Tshombe's return. More than that, we are accused, unfairly and falsely, of having helped pay for the mercenaries.

There is political instability in most of Africa. Many of the changes ahead this year and next will come from there. Advice from our experts is that we should not become enmeshed in the affairs of the Congo.