

# Editorial Page

## Problems In Viet Nam

Some light on the muddled situation in Viet Nam was provided last week at the regular meeting of the Klamath Falls Kiwanis Club when Capt. Roger Gibson, Kingsley Field, presented slides and a map on this area.

Captain Gibson was a member of the First Air Commando Squadron stationed at Bien Hoa (pronounced been-wah), and came to Kingsley Field in October of 1964.

Within the limits of necessary security, Captain Gibson provided a forthright picture of the Viet Nam problem.

He told the Kiwanists that there were 8,000 hard core Viet Cong rebels in 1962 but this figure has escalated to about 26,000 in 1964.

During the day, he explained, you can't find a guerrilla anywhere because they all look alike, and during the day they are peaceful natives, but at night, they become terrorists.

Pointing to the map around Saigon and the southern portion of Viet Nam, he commented, "At night, they own this section of the countryside."

He explained the growth in the rebels and their sympathizers by noting that they have used terrorist tactics to good advantage and have the villagers cowed into submission. They do not dare to oppose the rebels because they will be the target of the next attack.

Arms, too, have been revolutionized in the area, he noted.

Starting with such primitive weapons as crossbows and crude mortars just two years ago, he said, the rebels today have the very latest in weapons, either captured or supplied by outside sources. These include latest aircraft radar-controlled weapons.

"This is the rice bowl of Asia," Gibson said, pointing out the vital necessity of retaining this area. "If it is lost," he continued,

"our strong ally, Thailand, would be in dangerous trouble as would the other areas of Southeast Asia, including the Philippines."

Supplies, he said, are filtered into the area from the Viet Cong in the north by means of the "Ho Chi Minh" trail which comes down through Laos and then branches into Viet Nam. Sampans (small boats) provide another means of supply along the coastal areas of the south.

Touching on the combat situation, Captain Gibson listed the rules under which Americans labored. They were, first, strike only those targets marked by smoke from Vietnamese forward air observer; second, return fire if fired upon and can positively determine positions of friendly personnel.

Under these conditions, he said, "it got a little hairy sometimes."

It was apparent, although not stated, that both the troubled political situation in Viet Nam and the multiple military-diplomatic control echelon above the Americans were big contributors to the confusion.

Asked why the Americans didn't do some things differently, Gibson pointed out that the Americans are only "advisers" in the country and must abide by whatever rules are laid down by the officials of the province or the country.

His presentation served again to point up the extreme difficulties of trying to bring order out of the chaotic political situation. While there appears to be no honorable way of getting out of the situation short of a negotiated settlement which might turn the country over to the Communists, there appears to be a hope that eventual stability will be achieved in Viet Nam, and that this will enable the Vietnamese, themselves, to successfully prosecute the war against the Viet Cong.

It may be wishful thinking, but at the moment there appears to be no other possibility.

## Letters To The Editor

### Mrs. Hatfield

In the letter in the paper from Rosie Wilkins referring to Mrs. Hatfield's remark about the next Republican candidate would be better than what we have now, I heard her say it, and thought she meant Mr. Goldwater. The Hatfields worked for Rockefeller, and it sounded to me like she meant any candidate would be better than Goldwater. Maybe I am mistaken.

Hattie Walker.

### Education Bills

A PTA state legislative session met in Salem Tuesday, Feb. 16. PTA members were urged to attend. We spent a little time in the House and Senate watching the law-making body in action. After lunch the Senate Education Committee held a hearing before us. Without any explanation the committee immediately passed a resolution affecting Klamath County. From then on eight resolutions were read in order and recommended by a Portland attorney, Mr. Jordan, of the AFL-CIO. Five of these bills were designed to increase the cost of education, with no at-

tempt to estimate the cost. Not one bill had to do with benefiting children.

From 3 to 6 p.m. the House Committee on Education appeared before us. The point at issue was House Bill 1228 which will, if enacted, restrict an unfair part of education laws, that of equalization.

Our property in Klamath County, according to equalization law, was reassessed by the State Tax Commission. This increased our assessed valuations and our tax burden exceedingly. This resulting high valuation made us look like a rich county. Some counties have never been reassessed and consequently they are called poor counties. So-called rich counties pay high taxes and receive very little, if any, of our own Klamath County tax money as equalization. The so-called poor counties pay low taxes and receive large sums of Klamath County tax money for their schools.

Our representative Carl Howe was to be commended for his efforts in our behalf. He has labored for eight years to correct this fraud against us.

A very simple solution would be to take the jurisdiction of education, with its political impact, away from the state and return it to the individual county.

I can see no part of this oath that any person teaching our children should object to, and I would like to know why such legislators are introduced.

Glen McGregor, 434 N. 6th.

We in each county keep our own tax money and run our own schools. This is doubly important unless we want the AFL-CIO to become dictator to more and more school policy. This is up to every property owner to organize and present a united front.

Rosie Wilkins, Keno, Ore.

### Teacher Oath

There is now a bill pending in our state legislature to change the loyalty oath of teachers that I think all parents should be aware of. It is House Bill 1029.

Relating to the teachers loyalty oath, O.R.S. 342.615 is amended to read:

"I solemnly swear, or affirm, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Oregon, and the laws enacted thereunder."

What is left out is the following part of the oath, "That I will teach, by precept and example, respect for the flag of the United States and of the State of Oregon; and reverence for law and order and undivided allegiance to the government of our country, the United States of America."

I can see no part of this oath that any person teaching our children should object to, and I would like to know why such legislators are introduced.

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### 'Crazy' Bill

Recently, Oregon State Representative Berkeley Lett of Portland introduced H.B. 1542.

This bill grants with forfeiture of peace officers to take into custody and deliver within 12 hours to the state hospital, anyone who might be contemplating or threatening suicide.

It also authorizes an officer to arrest any person "who the officer has reasonable cause to believe mentally ill."

In short, this would be a law enabling peace officers to conduct a "mental" search. Another law with legal loopholes and not much thought put behind it by its author of the bill.

One benefit of a bill of this type might be a greater consideration given to proposals before they are introduced into the legislature.

Radar and straight-jackets—standard equipment. Mavis Jones, 6323 Juniper, Way.

## FULTON LEWIS JR. . . .

### President To Ask \$400 Million For ARA

WASHINGTON — The President will shortly send to Capitol Hill a message asking \$400 million to keep the Area Redevelopment Agency in operation. Congressional approval is all but certain. The vast majority of ARA projects are located in Congressional districts that have sent a loyal Democrat to the nation's Capitol.

ARA was originally designed to provide limited financial aid to no more than 40 regions hard-hit by economic blight. Yet one month after ARA was established in 1961, the agency published a list of 100 areas eligible for aid. The list continued to grow until the poverty label had been affixed to a third of the nation's 3,000 counties and to 42 million citizens.

The ARA has designated areas as depressed that are, in fact, thriving. Rice County, Kansas, was found to be a depressed area despite a farm income of nearly \$8,000 a year. Gregg County, Texas, was tagged a poverty pocket although it ranked third in a nation in retail purchases per household.

ARA was launched primarily to create new jobs. For that, it agency projects often jeopardize existing jobs. The ARA sponsored a \$19 million motel lodge in Detroit despite the fact that hotel occupancy in that city had sagged to 53 per cent and two hotels had just gone bankrupt. There are numerous other examples.

In Northern California, ARA loaned a company \$235,000 to open a plywood mill, although local lumbermen said there was not enough business to keep existing mills open.

In Wisconsin, ARA financed a \$16,000 plant to make paper towels although existing mills in the state were operating at less than capacity. In Alaska, the town of Saxman (adult population: 75) received \$1.5 million for port development. Traffic to be developed will be carried by the Canadian National Railways out of Canadian origin port in S. This type of cargo is usually

carried by American carriers to Pacific Coast cities.

ARA Director William Batt Jr. claims to have created tens of thousands of jobs throughout the nation. The claim is grossly exaggerated, according to Charles Stevenson, Washington correspondent for the Reader's Digest.

"ARA lists 300 persons as totaling in a Wheeling, W. Va., rifle factory which grew from a \$272,000 loan," Stevenson wrote. "Stop there and you'll find the place empty. It was built in expectation of a defense contract—but the contract never came." A metal fabricating firm in southwestern Pennsylvania hired 50 new workers after receiving an ARA loan, according to the agency. The firm actually employed 11 persons. And a candy manufacturer says that his employment may actually decrease after he uses ARA funds to buy new machinery. He's on the ARA book for \$0 jobs.

The majority of ARA dollars thus far dispersed have gone not into industrial areas of great unemployment but into looser-designated rural areas of lesser need. ARA planners, moreover frequently ignore provisions of the law that stipulate no aid may go to companies that make "reasonable" financial assistance elsewhere. ARA funds have gone to such firms as the Howard Johnson chain of restaurants and brothers, and the American Optical Co.

A wealthy Detroit industrialist was given almost \$1 million to build a luxurious resort in Northern Michigan. Not long after the construction of the resort around suggesting I was a eligible for more loans."

The Library of Congress has estimated that the new enterprise requires \$20,000 in capital investment to provide one new job. The firm actually did not provide jobs for 22 persons. For that, private industry could have provided more than ten times the number of jobs.

## business as Usual



## BRUCE BLOSSAT . . .

### Solons Lose Power On Foreign Policy



WASHINGTON (NEA)—President Johnson is showing no signs of neglecting his congressional fences as the tense Vietnamese situation progresses.

Yet, as these efforts at maintaining sound links involve the committees dealing with foreign affairs, something is missing. There is a loss of vitality, and it seems not to be on the President's side. In fact, this circumstance appears to have had its origins long before he took office.

The easiest thing to say is

that the inevitably increasing dominance of the White House in foreign affairs in an age of quick-breaking crises has downgraded both the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

There is more to it than that. For one thing, the always less influential House committee has had no real claim to distinction for many years. Some presidents have come close to ignoring it. This kind of treatment evoked an outburst

in 1950 from the then House foreign affairs chairman, Rep. James Richards of South Carolina. Said he:

"I'm not going to have this committee dealt with as if it were a feeble-minded, illegitimate mate son."

If the House group has since consistently enjoyed somewhat more respectful attention, there has perhaps not been much White House heart in it.

Nor has the present chairman, Rep. Thomas Morgan of Pennsylvania, succeeded in re-making the committee into an instrument greatly to be reckoned with, though some foreign affairs specialists in the capital say he has recently managed some beneficial changes in membership.

Morgan and the committee's ranking Republican, Rep. Francis Bolton of Ohio, have not attended formal White House briefings on Viet Nam. The evidence is a bit fuzzy on the matter of Morgan's personal contacts with the President in such times of crisis. His name was not on the White House datebook during the period of our air strikes against North Viet Nam.

But he saw Johnson at a six-table White House reception for congressmen.

The Senate story is considerably different. Foreign relations chairman J. William Fulbright evidently saw the President at least three times at the White House during the critical Viet Nam aftermath, and the senator's aides say Viet Nam was discussed more than once.

There appears no measurable substance to the report that Johnson deliberately left Fulbright out of his Viet Nam "leadership briefings" in anger at the senator's refusal to support a year to take command of the controversial foreign aid bill.

Fulbright's independence of mind often has tended to entangle him in rumors of feuds with the White House. Aides insist they are unfounded.

Nevertheless, Fulbright is said by some at the executive end of town to be given to periods of moody introspection which affect his command of the Foreign Relations Committee.

In one appraiser's view, the committee is "stucked with a lot of people Fulbright didn't want." Some members, this source suggests, seem bent most on charring an individual rather than a committee course. He adds:

"Fellows like (Senators) Symington, Smathers and Morse all have foreign policies of their own."

Whatever the state of Fulbright's relationship with the President, it should not be forgotten that the senator campaigned hard for him last fall. The net effect of the present circumstance is evidently to reduce further the Senate group's voice in White House councils.

This committee, inescapably, is still powerful. But it lacks fire. Some of the flame vanished when the vibrant Hubert Humphrey left its midst. Like its House counterpart, however, it has recently been turning gray for a long time.

## RALPH de TOLEDANO . . .

### Those 'Harmless' Left-Wingers

When Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested for the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the College of Bleeding Hearts went into immediate session to try to wipe from the public mind the fact that he was (a) at the very least a Marxist and (b) an activist in the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. After all, the Moscow Radio had immediately blamed the crime on "reactionaries" — and so had Chief Justice Warren for that matter.

Even after Oswald's past and connections had been thoroughly publicized, there were many who still refused to accept the facts. It was necessary for them to blame the right-wing.

The citizens of Dallas, who have been hounded and smeared by the press, will be glad to take some comfort from

this week's news. And those who saw no relationship between Oswald's horrible act and his ideological commitments will find it good to see another red herring to drag across the trail.

For the Fair Play for Cuba Committee is once more in the news. At least one of its members, And once again, the violent thunder comes from the left. The "radical right" of the College of Bleeding Hearts calls for police action against the John Birch Society, the left wing of Oswald's own ideology. The Birch Society has taken no shots, other than verbal ones, at government figures, and its members are patriotic.

Two members of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee say they claim to no such moderation.

The bomb plot, foiled by excellent police work, which filled the papers during the past few days was the product of pro-Castro, pro-Red Chinese activists. The dynamite they hoped to use on the Statue of Liberty, the Washington Monument, and other patriotic shrines is now in police hands. But no one is quite sure how wide the ramifications of the plot are.

The "Black Liberation Front" is small, but police openly acknowledge that contacts were made with left-wing groups in other cities. The argument that this is a group in the education of its threat thus disappears. Lenin knew that conspiratorial groups have to be effective if they are to be effective.

## Almanac

By United Press International Today is Tuesday, Feb. 23, the 54th day of 1965 with 111 to follow.

The moon is in its last quarter. The morning star is Mars. The evening stars are Mars and Jupiter.

American pioneer in education for girls, Emma Hart Willard was born on this day in 1787.

On this day in history: In 1870, Mississippi was readmitted to the Union.

## PHIL NEWSOM . . .

Notes from the foreign news cables.

China: To Offer Troops: Informed sources in Taipei say Nationalist China is expected to ask the United States to endorse its plan to send troops to fight in Viet Nam. They said the only reason the Nationalists so far have not made the offer is the expressed objection of the United States which believes it might be an invitation to non-intervention by the Chinese Communists. The Nationalists

say that their well-trained troops not only will be tough fighters but will boost the morale of the Vietnamese and the peoples of other Southeast Asia countries. These sources said the Nationalists may offer one to three divisions of its 800,000 man army to fight the Vietnamese guerrillas.

Paris Wants Conference: The French have not abandoned hope of a conference to end the Vietnam conflict. Unconfirmed reports about that

top-secret negotiations are going on between Washington, London and Moscow. The French believe Paris ultimately might serve as a go-between to get Red China to the conference table. President De Gaulle remains convinced no settlement is possible without Red Chinese participation.

Trade With China: Despite West German Chancellor Erhard's promise to President Johnson to discuss plans for a trade agreement

with Communist China pending a Vietnamese settlement, West German firms are showing increasing interest in building up their business with China. Germany's big three, reports economic circles still believe a trade agreement should be signed.

Krupp engineers are just back from the China mainland with still and moving pictures of factory and bridge projects on which the Chinese are asking bids and credit terms.

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## BERRY'S WORLD



It's probably LBJ again . . . do you suppose he owns a piece of AT&T?