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Our Community's Loss

The death this week of Dr. Kurt T. Shery deprives the community of a dedicated leader whose efforts in several fields have made this a better place in which to live.

Dr. Shery, a resident here for 22 years, was born in Germany 58 years ago and received much of his early schooling there and at Columbia University in New York.

A prominent physician, his interests spread beyond the confines of his practice. He had served as chief of staff of Torrance Memorial Hospital; he was a member of the Torrance Kiwanis Club for nearly two decades, had just been returned to the Torrance Board of Education which he had served as president; and recently was named to the Casa Loma College Convocation in Pacoima.

His voice will be particularly missed in school affairs. He was a strong advocate of fundamental education, including emphasis on the "Three Rs" and on what he called "RR" or remedial reading. He called for and worked for a strong school board, and a strong program on America's heritage.

Dr. Shery not only advocated such programs, he worked for them with a tenacity and a zeal which has been responsible for their recognition as worthwhile goals by others whose aid he sought.

While others will come forward to take his place in his public and professional roles, the loss of his leadership in the several fields which attracted him will be felt for a long time to come.

A Drive to Mediocrity

We live in an age of government investigations. Practically every citizen in the country, whether he realizes it or not, is a subject of study by some government body. Invariably, the studies and investigations terminate in recommendations for more government spending and more government control—the two go hand in hand.

In the area of health care and the medical arts, the trend has led toward a kind of massive paternalism that cannot help but be depressing to those who are concerned with preserving the ideal of the importance of the individual and the doctor-patient relationship. The medical profession officially and through the offices of tens of thousands of practicing physicians is striving to meet the problems of rising cost and expansion of federal intervention in the health field as constructively as possible without compromising high standards of medical care. On the one hand, the doctor is asked to use his influence to gain for nurses better wages. On the other, he is asked to help cut drug costs to his patients. And finally, as the AMA News observes, "At stake for the physician, in his concern about health care costs, is his ability to practice medicine freely." On this depends the long-range outlook for the quality and progress of medical care.

Massive government paternalism carries within it the seeds of mediocrity. History has proven this.

A Chance to Help

The 1966 "Youth Opportunity Campaign" is on again to help get jobs for young Americans leaving their classrooms in May and June.

The superb effort of private employers deserves our nation's thanks and the particular appreciation of those in the 16 to 21 age group. That effort has very often meant success instead of failure for willing youngsters who could not have found work without the organized assistance of private employers across the nation.

Once again this summer, private employers, federal, state and local governments, labor unions, churches and civic organizations are asked to provide work and training experience for as many young people as possible.

About half of these young people will be seeking career employment, venturing for the first time into the adult working world. For others, summer jobs are essential to continue schooling. Many in this group have extraordinary economic or educational disadvantages and will need special attention. Offer a helping hand if you can to the vacation job hunters.

OTHERS SAY

The Wrong Crowd

An insidious effect of the hard-core anti-Vietnam campaign is its enthrallment of thousands, perhaps millions, of young idealists who either disregard or are ignorant of the horrors of 20th century totalitarianism. These young people should ask themselves if they go along with those who burn the American flag, and what it stands for, if they want a viet Cong victory in Vietnam, and if they wish the United States and other Western countries involved to stand aside as totalitarian aggression sweeps over the small nations of the world. If they don't, as certainly the great majority don't, they have taken up with the wrong crowd. —Portland (Ore.) Oregonian.

★ ★ ★

The average U.S. family will pay \$3,300 in taxes (federal, state, and local) in 1967, according to the Tax Foundation, Inc. How the average family can support several governments and one and one-fifth automobiles and still manage to somehow dwell indoors, wear clothes, and eat is an unfathomable mystery.

First He Should Learn To Walk



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Pants Are Pants, Even With \$3,000 Mink Coat

A mess of dottage: If you aren't in the cast of Julie Christie's "Petulia," you're out. Everybody in town seems to be working in the film: Pianist Abe Battat, the entire crew of the Trident — and now the Jefferson Airplane, which has been signed for two original numbers to be whanged out in a scene at the Fairmont. . . . The elegant Mrs. Preston Marr had her evening married recently. Wearing an \$185 gold lame pantsuit and a \$3000 mink jacket, she was turned away at Senor Pico "while a girl wearing a miniskirt up to HERE got right in!" There's one leg man in every crowd. . . . Add untold stories: While Sir John Barbirolli and the Houston Symphony were en route to S. F., their chartered plane lost its hydraulic pressure. When he heard the bad news, Sir John merely rolled his eyes heavenward and sighed softly: "Oh dear, and we haven't played the Mahler yet." The emergency landing was okay, as was the Mahler. . . . Louis Lurie poured the drinks for Millie (Mrs. Bob) Considine in honor of her new travel book, "Just a Minute, Mrs. Gulliver." Pride of authorship thing: Mr. L. dreamed up the title. At Jack's one noon, Millie asked: "What'll I call my new book?" Louis, thinking: "Just a minute, Mrs. Gulliver." All: "That's it, that's it!"

★ ★ ★
How long has it been since you've heard a clean joke, however old? Here's Icky Outhwaite at Place Pigalle, telling about the man who says "I've been married twice — tragically — and I'll never marry again. My first wife died of eating mushrooms and my second died of a fractured skull." A friend asks: "Fractured skull? How did THAT happen?" "She wouldn't eat her mushrooms." Okay. Back to the dirties.

★ ★ ★
"Behind every advance of the human race is a germ of creation growing in the mind of some lone individual, an individual whose dreams waken him in the night while others lie contentedly asleep. We need those dreams, for today's dreams represent tomorrow's realities. —Crawford H. Greenwalt

Morning Report:

Anything that passes the United States Senate unanimously is immediately suspect. Even a bill to double the lawmakers' salaries would by all odds draw at least one "no."

That's why I'm sure there must be something wrong in the treaty with the Soviet Union that outlaws military bases on the Moon, Mars, and other way out points in space. Even though at the moment, I can't put my finger on it.

The treaty seems fool-proof. Either side is allowed to send an inspection team to look over the other country's celestial base and come back to report what they have seen. If they can make it both ways. Maybe the treaty sailed through the Senate because nobody there really believes we will ever have a chance to use it.

Abe Mellinkoff

AFFAIRS OF STATE

Talk About Property Tax Relief Is Just Gimmickry

Capital News Service
By HENRY C. MACARTHUR
SACRAMENTO — Of all the bad jokes which circulate around the state Capitol, none of which are funny, probably the worst is the contention that the property owner will obtain some tax relief from the property tax bills now before the legislature.

Says Robert C. Brown, executive vice-president of the California Taxpayers Association:

"The property taxpayer has been misled if he believes he will have a reduction in taxes next year. The most we can hope for is a reduction on the rate of increase on property tax levies."

And coupled with this rate of increase, the property taxpayer will undoubtedly be faced with additional income tax, sales tax, and other tax levies at the state level.

★ ★ ★
Thus, so-called property tax relief is nothing more than a political gimmick to cream the taxpayer into believing some politician is doing him a favor, while in effect, life continues in the same old way — more government, bigger payrolls, and more taxes, at both state and local levels.

Both political parties may be called guilty in the mad scramble of seeking favor from the voters, through carrying on the hallucination that tax relief will jump up out of nowhere through the magical formula of taking the government's tribute out of one pocket instead of the other pocket. What government seems not to realize in this day and age is that the taxpayer has grown

Sacramento
to be a big boy over the past few years, and is thoroughly capable of recognizing political gimmicks, designed to get votes instead of producing results.

★ ★ ★
Brown backs up his statement with facts, as the Taxpayers Association usually does.

He points out that next year, local tax levies will increase by more than \$400 million. The largest amount of relief offered in any bill now before the legislature totals only \$300 million.

"Whatever the amount of relief proposed," he declared, "it will come from other tax bases, mainly sales and income tax. Many taxpayers will find their share of the increased taxes

much greater than the property tax relief."

★ ★ ★
Further, he pointed out that history can repeat itself, citing the case of the Riley-Stewart act in 1933, through which the state entered the sales tax field and turned all property taxation back to local government. By 1938, he said expanding use of the property tax wiped out relief, which really lasted for five years.

★ ★ ★
Thus, if California is given "relief" this year, it would be only a few years before the taxpayer is back on the same schedule, with the added costs of state taxes materially increased during the interim.

★ ★ ★
Thus, more than thirty years have passed since an alleged relief tax bill was passed by the legislature. This did little but pave the way for bigger and better taxes.

★ ★ ★
And it is almost a foregone conclusion that the current tax relief bills will do nothing more than raise taxes. For it isn't a question out of what pocket the taxpayer pays, but of how much. And the bills are getting no less despite the cries of the politicians concerning "relief."

ROYCE BRIER

Stalin's Daughter Finds God, Rejects Communism

You sit before the pictures for years, and for years, and with fading hope see them come and go, with their cunning faces, their calculating words. These are the everyday people, the officeholders and politicians with crocodilian smiles, the public men and women with causes, fleeting or eternal.

So here comes Svetlana, daughter of Stalin, and spellbound, you watch the screen for an hour, regarding her plain face, her shy smile, you see her thinking in a strange tongue. You think, how did the Almighty fashion some chattering babydoll on the Carson show, and then this woman, by the same biological process?

For this is a good woman, without malice, without concern for self, without pretense, intelligent, tolerant, rational, compassionate, a woman supremely adjusted

to living with her fellow beings.

The geneticists and sociologists, who tell us of chromosomes and environment, must be dismayed. Josef Stalin begot this child and raised her like a Caesar's daughter. Is this not enough to wreck a human life?

★ ★ ★
The strange part is you know it's not an act, not an act at all.

First, Josef Stalin, the immense, dark ghost looming behind her in the New York television studio. "I loved and respected my father. He was good to me." Of the grim infancy heaped upon him by millions: "I do not believe . . . to accuse one person for the acts of many — the acts of the Party." More than half the world thinks of her father as a his-

torical monster. How easy to accord with more than half the world! But the devious and the self-serving is not in her.

★ ★ ★
She is a non-political woman now, no longer impressed with communism or the class struggle. She doesn't think it's the solution. She has found religious belief, she believes in God, but not the God in the sky. She believes in a God seeking human good, she believes in "one humanity."

★ ★ ★
As she dissents from the world view of her father, so she dissents from the world view of itself, the cynical doubt of our time, the greed and hopelessness of our time. She will gain riches from her writing in America, but she does not intend to become a rich woman. She will give part of her money to the poor of the Indian village where her dead husband was born.

★ ★ ★
Oddly, you don't doubt it — how long since you had faith in simple altruism?

Svetlana Alliluyeva (she took her mother's name) came to America because she had no freedom to write in her homeland. She left because they would not let her take her dying husband home.

★ ★ ★
She indicted the Soviet society, but in a way so understanding, so moderate, that the Kremlin rulers of today must be puzzled. Now she hungers for democratic freedom, yet the scope of her quest is so wide, so groping, she remains a non-political woman.

★ ★ ★
She is altogether a mystery, but a rich, warm and honest one in the first press conference of her life. At the close 200 newsmen arose and applauded, and no wonder. They had not seen the like before.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Fidel Throws Curve Ball In Baseball and Politics

Where did Commandante Manuel Pineiro, head of Cuba's G-2, get his ample supply of Chesterfield cigarettes? "Mexico, Spain?" asked the American photojournalist Lee Lockwood. Nothing so complicated, replied "Barba Rosa," so-called because of his gnome-like pointed red beard. "They come to us free of charge through the courtesy of the CIA. You don't believe me? . . . The CIA's agents bring them in, in large quantities, hoping to use them to win over new people. We capture them, and we smoke them."

★ ★ ★
This is an anecdote from "Castro's Cuba, Cuba's Fidel," Lockwood's account of several recent journalistic trips to Cuba and of his marathon interview with Castro, over seven days, at the Prime Minister's Isle of Pines retreat. Earlier we talked about this extraordinarily vivid, informative document which includes a graphic and moving portfolio of Lockwood's photographs from Cuba. To emphasize the book's anecdotal atmosphere, some further quotes:

★ ★ ★
Had there been any lessening of the CIA's activities since the 1962 missile crisis? "No," said Castro, "the CIA maintains its activities incessantly and with all possible resources. . . . Many times we know when agents come. We are always capturing agents, launches, boats, communications equipment. We simply don't give out the news, in order to keep them in a state of the greatest insecurity and confusion."

★ ★ ★
Castro on the Swiss ambassador, who handles U.S. affairs in Cuba: "I think El Suizo represents (your) interests better than any former American ambassador whom I have known. Above all, he discusses things objectively, the opposite of Americans, who have a tendency to speak with a certain air of superiority. Maybe it would be a good idea for the United States to let the Swiss be their ambassadors everywhere. They'd be more successful, probably."

★ ★ ★
Fidel takes baseball ser-

iously (like everything else), but it is not a sport in which he is most talented. Lockwood reports: "He throws sideways, with good control but with not very much on the ball. . . . At every occasion I have seen him play, he was clobbered unmercifully. Yet he stayed in there — what manager could dare yank Fidel? At the end of nine innings his team was behind something like 11 to 2, so he pitched two more innings. Ramiro Valdez (of the Cuban G-2) ragged Castro from the sidelines and begged him to let him pitch. Castro pretended to ignore him."

★ ★ ★
Are there any nuclear missiles in Cuba now? "I don't have to perform that service for the North American intelligence," Castro replied. "They get enough intelligence through their own channels." But, Lockwood protested, what about the American people, who have no access to official intelligence? Would he answer the question for them? Well, Fidel allowed, "those weapons don't exist; unfortunately, there are none."



★ ★ ★
Held it pop—the scouts have decided to sell candy bars instead. . . .