

Some Needless Spending

State legislators apparently are still elated over their \$10,000 pay raise — from \$6,000 to \$16,000.

In the meantime, regrettably, they are busy working out ways to increase state spending, totally missing the fact that the only taxpayer to enjoy a windfall such as theirs is perhaps another legislator.

A case in point of needless spending is Senate Bill 539 which would allow teachers retirement benefits for experience in other states.

The proposal will cost nearly \$4 million the first year and go ultimately to \$30 million a year and a total cost of \$600 to \$700 million.

Proponents argue that the bill will increase recruitment of out-of-state teachers. Facts indicate it is not needed.

Educators who know their business and who have no political hatchets to grind say that a teacher shortage does not exist. California universities and colleges, together with volunteers from out-of-state, are meeting the teacher needs.

A 1965 survey by the Department of Finance showed that of 60,393 teachers who moved to California only 5,646 were actually recruited by school officials. The others came here for strictly personal reasons.

The bill, in addition to being another drain of tax dollars, is peculiar in several aspects. First it has not been opposed by any of the education lobby groups. It has had a supporting lobby.

Clearly this large amount of money tied in the bill must come from education funds and must reduce funds available for other education.

It would seem educators themselves would have expressed some doubts about the need for such a program. Their inaction raises some doubts as to how carefully the school board associations and others are really looking out for education interests.

Of greater concern, however, is the action of our elected officials. SB 539 had been killed in senate finance committee and the sponsors had left the committee. When Gov. Ronald Reagan announced his budget cuts, the senators immediately reconsidered and the bill was sent out with a recommendation of "do pass."

Spite action or otherwise, \$600 to \$700 million is a high premium to pay a seemingly privileged class.

The teaching profession is not a sacred cow, particularly at this time when the concern of legislators should be saving tax dollars.

Opinions of Others

Since 1930 the population of the United States has increased 60 per cent and the per capita income has increased 300 per cent. But during the same period, the costs of the federal government have soared 5,000 per cent, and the federal debt has climbed from \$15 billion to \$330 billion—an indebtedness of \$6,000 on each and every family in the nation. The cancer-like growth continues. . . . The federal government employed, as of Dec. 1, 1966, a total of 2,964,687 people. That runs to about \$20 billion a year in salaries alone. This is five times the total 1930 federal budget for everything, including national defense, foreign aid, federal "aid" programs, Post Office Department deficit, and all federal programs.—*Morris (Minn.) Tribune.*

Wall Street was named after the old Dutch wall erected along its northern boundary in the middle of the 17th century. Ditched and built with sharpened palisades, the wall kept the cattle in, and the Indians and any stray English colonials out. The New York Stock Exchange, celebrating its 175th anniversary this year, is the most famous resident of this noted street.—*Portland (Ore.) Industrial News Review.*

An Associated Press picture in the newspapers leads us to wonder. . . . The picture showed police removing a demonstrator in Boston. The incident was said to be triggered by welfare recipients demanding increased allowances. Next thing you know someone will form a union of welfare recipients and we'll have strikes for bigger and better doles.—*Slayton (Minn.) Herald.*

DON'T BE LITTERBUGS



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Roots of Protest Fall Short of Public Image

"Well," I ventured, "would you say you came to San Francisco as a gesture of protest against the sterility of middle-class morality and the puritan ethic that has been so inimical to the mental well-being of mid-sixties America? And if so, do you feel that total alienation is a viable stance vis-a-vis the military-industrial continuum? To put it another way . . ."

He looked at me for the first time. "You crazy?" he said. "I came here like everybody else — to get a girl and get high." Only he didn't say "get a girl," exactly—he said it on the line a bit more explicitly. I threw down a few coins and left, feeling that perhaps there was less to the story than we had been led to believe.

The hostess at a polite dinner party the other night wailed: "How did this hippie thing ever happen to our lovely city?" All I could think of was the reply of the Vassar girl (Smith? Bryn Mawr?) found working in a house of prostitution. "Just lucky, I guess."

Writer John Raymond thinks the U.S. should sell Alcatraz to the Indians for \$24 and some beads to make up for the Great Manhattan Swindle of three centuries ago. . . . Stone Lantz III, leader of The Main Attraction (one of the better rock groups), rec'd his Presidential Citation for Physical Fitness last week and asks anxiously: "Is this bad for my image?" . . . Letter from an aging Oklahoma City wit to Dan London, boss of S.F.'s Hotel St. Francis: "Dear Saint: My wife and I would like shelter in your rooming house the night of June 25. Twin beds, as my wife will not get into bed with me or anyone else and hasn't for many years. Not too expensive, please. We

will be returning from Hawaii stone broke."

Grace Kennan McClatchy, dgtr of Former Ambassador George Kennan, is off to the family farm in Pennsylvania to spend a month with Stalin's dgtr, Svetlana Alliluyeva, who is summing there (Grace speaks fluent Russian); Kennan was

San Francisco

chiefly responsible for Svetlana's decision to come here. . . . Our French colony's annual Bastille Day Ball (at the Hilton July 15) featured an 18-foot working replica of a guillotine, which may or may not be conducive to a joyous, care-free evening. Henri Lewin, the Hilton's gen. mgr., reports: I was invited to stick my head in during the evening, but I just changed my mind. . . . Page one eight-column headlines in the Los Angeles Times recently, one stop the other: "Baby Born to Luci — Jolt to Israel." Cairo and Damascus took the news calmly, I gather.

Bimbo, the San Francisco Zoo's oldest and most intelligent chimp, just celebrated his 32nd birthday — and we say congratulations to this splendid chap; at 205 pounds, all muscle, he is probably the biggest chimp in the world. . . . (You know how smart this guy is? He hates the hypodermic needle, which is only human, so when his keeper comes around with the jabber, ol' Bimbo grabs the bars, closes his eyes and opens his mouth a yard wide, meaning he wants the serum orally. And that's the way he gets it) . . . Sign on Interstate 80 near here: "Suffering from Distress in your Lower Tract? Move to Hilltop Green!" . . . Judge Albert Axelrod is strenuously supporting that pro-

Morning Report:

Goodness knows it's hard for us ordinary citizens to keep our eye on the ball in the international games that are being played all around the world. But unknown to us, there are several fringe operations going on at the same time.

Like the Chinese assertion that Russia is "the number one accomplice of the United States" in the Middle East trouble. Even President Nasser, of Egypt, hasn't bought that one—yet. And according to the John Birch Society, both our hawks and the doves have the Vietnam war all wrong. "We are sending our men to fight against the Communists in a war which is actually being controlled on both sides by the Communists."

There is only one good explanation: Mao Tse-tung is a secret member of the John Birch Society.

Abe Mellinkoff

AFFAIRS OF STATE

Law Suit, Initiative Only Recourse in Racing Law

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR
Capital News Service

SACRAMENTO — Almost all controversial measures adopted by the state legislature in which a great deal of money is involved, usually wind up in the courts, and apparently, AB1082, the horse racing bill, will not be an exception.

The measure, by Assemblyman Bob Moretti, D-North Hollywood, provides for night racing and additional

An initiative action seeking to repeal the legislation authorizing night horse racing was filed Wednesday in the Los Angeles office of the state attorney general, Paul Kolar, of Glendale, filed the action. He must secure signatures of at least 8 per cent of the state's registered — some 520,000 — to qualify the petition for a vote.

days of racing. It has been signed into law by Governor Ronald Reagan and because of an urgency clause, there is no opportunity of a referendum.

Two alternatives remain for opponents of the measure. The first is the filing of a suit to determine constitutionality of the urgency clause, and the second is a statewide initiative to repeal all or any portion of the bill as adopted by the legislature.

The governor, when he signed the bill, indicated he was not wholly satisfied

with it because of the provision for night racing. The churches are moving to scuttle the measure.

So it appears that if the court suit does not work, and not many think it will, the public will have a chance to vote next year on

Sacramento

whether it wants night harness racing and additional days of racing or not.

Some criticism of proponents of the measure has been made on the ground there was no necessity for the urgency clause, making the bill effective immediately on signing. The state has operated a good many years without additional days of horse racing, and night harness racing, so it is a good question as to why it suddenly become vital to the public health, welfare and safety to have it effective immediately.

However, this appears to be more or less a minor matter when the overall scope of horse-racing is taken into consideration.

The larger issue, if it ever comes to a vote of the people, will be that if California is going to have horse racing at all, why should it be confined to day-time racing of thoroughbreds?

Originally the constitutional amendment which

authorized pari-mutuel betting at the races was sold to the people on the grounds that the betting was necessary to "upgrade thoroughbred breeding."

So if the pari-mutuels were good for the thoroughbred industry, why not standard-breds as well? Harness racing has been virtually eliminated from the more popular tracks until there are only about two or three breeding farms in the state, which is evidence enough that this particular phase of the horse racing industry needs a shot in the arm.

Then too, it is a well known fact that the matter of competition between various forms of night entertainment enters the picture. The theaters consider that the more people who attend night racing events will result in less people attending the movies.

Also, there is the matter of revenue to the state. The new law, it is estimated, will bring in about \$13 million more a year than is being obtained now from the state's share of the pari-mutuels, which is not an inconsiderable sum.

The major decision, however, will be as to the degree of gambling. It might be considered slightly hypocritical to allow gambling on one phase of horse racing and not on another.

ROYCE BRIER

Kosygin's Granite Stand Leaves No Room for Talk

This is the second and last of two columns inquiring into Premier Kosygin's position as a member of a collective now ruling the Soviet Union.

Wednesday we examined the rigid uniformity of policy ideas presented by Kosygin in his two appearances in America, and from internal evidence, his private meetings with President Johnson.

The over-all Kosygin position was a set-piece, like a Fourth of July oration of the last century without the fireworks. Each idea expounded was rounded and perfect, without room for a minuscule confession of error, or doubt that the Soviet Union is righteous

and infallible as a historical organism. It was all done in a dry and humorless vein, lacking the Fourth orator's ornament, but this automation rhetoric was well suited to the Soviet purpose.

Josef Stalin during the later years we were conscious of him, was not under

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this restraint. But he functioned largely by intimidation of his men, as did Adolf Hitler all his days.

It was fully explained by Nikita Khrushchev, who then moved tentatively toward the same Stalinesque goal. But he lacked Stalin's iron and ruthlessness and

was easily overthrown by a simple majority of the Central Committee of the Communist party.

The Committee then devised a leadership really to divide authority and this collective authority has remained in effective control of the Soviet destiny. Brezhnev, as Party secretary, a few ranking Red Army men and certain Party leaders, many with unfamiliar names in the West, now comprise the little hierarchy which rules the nation. It is an oligarchy.

In the West we are trained to think the word "premier" designates a chief of state, capable of major decision, though finally responsible to the parliament which can overrule or dismiss him.

But the Soviet parliament does not dismiss premiers. The Central Committee of upwards of 100 members can and does, and it is ruled by an inner circle with final power.

The fault of granite positions such as Premier Kosygin as a member of the circle was compelled to take, is that there is little latitude for an accommodation of view and action which can instill any promise in negotiation of the problems facing the world.

It is conceivable some scope for accommodation could be found when Kosygin reports back to his colleagues, provided he was impressed with some elements in the American position, and can convince his peers that moderation of policy is prudent. But speculation on such a possibility is futile.

You must have noticed that Mr. Johnson, as a wheel-dealer Texas politician, was non-plussed by the Kosygin granite, and put the best face on it he could, hardly with confidence.

Historically, collective leadership has a bad prognosis. Time and again dominating figures like Napoleon and Caesar suffocated their associates. But Alexei Kosygin gives no outward appearance of being one of these. We cannot, however, base a judgment on a television image.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Profile of Herod Gives Glimpse of Tyrant's Era

Herod was hated, and he was cruel. He was also maligned. But was he insane? In a remarkable work of scholarship, "Herod: Profile of a Tyrant," we find that this renegade king of the Jews was a highly emotional ruler, but in spite of his thirst for blood probably not insane. Herod killed many people including three of his children and one of his wives (and John the Baptist, too).

According to Matthew's Gospel, Herod ordered the slaughter of the innocents — all the male babies in Bethlehem — when the Wise Men informed him that a child was born who was to become king of the Jews.

In this account of a politician corrupted by power, Samuel Sandmel, professor of Bible and Hellenistic literature, Hebrew Union College, gives us both a biography and panorama of Herod's times. It bulges with political intrigue and flamboyant characters, including Cleopatra of Egypt, who fascinated Herod as she had Caesar and Marc Anthony, although it is said that Herod rejected Cleopatra's attempts to seduce him. Be-

sides, Herod had 10 wives as it was.

The violence of Herod's time (the birth and death of Jesus occurred during his reign) seems incredible; the political skulduggery about him equally so. Yet in spite of the instability of the age, the plots and counterplots against him, Herod

Books

did restore the empire of David and Solomon, although as a predominantly Roman society.

Sandmel admits that Herod's story hardly would be tolerated if it were dreamed up by a novelist: "It would be filled with too much violence, too much passion, too much despair, too much cruelty, too much plot."

Yet vivid and emphatic as Sandmel's scholarly and esoteric approach to his subject is, a reader wishes he had allowed himself the luxury of a more spirited narrative. With all the wonder and excitement this panorama of New Testament antiquity generates, it remains scholarship rather than a drama of passion, flesh, and blood.

The colors in this "profile" remain muted, perhaps in the tradition of pure scholarship. A reader must wrestle with the text on the author's terms. It is worth it, for Herod was a fantastic historical phenomenon and the cast of characters around him equally bizarre.

Herod became friendly with Marc Anthony who secured for him the title of King of Judea. He was a Jew but not Jewish in any religious sense. He believed Judea belonged to him, not to Judea. Samuel's profile is principally an inquiry into what Herod was, and why. If Technicolor, or the touch of Samuel Shellenbarger is not a part of this work, erudition certainly is.

The added significance for our day, the author notes, is that Herod lived immediately prior to the time when Christianity was born with Judaism, and in the time when Judaism, nurturing a new inner vigor, was in the early stages of the profound transition from biblical to rabbinic religion.

The story of Herod, then, is the story of his highly improbable age.