

# EDITORIALS

## Editorial Thought For the Day

Too many people are thinking of security instead of opportunity. They seem more afraid of life than of death.—James F. Byrnes.

### Passing the Buck

The trend in California for duly elected officials to sidestep highly controversial issues is reflected in the number of propositions appearing on state and local ballots.

Some city officials and legislators have the habit of dodging these issues by transferring to the voter proposals ranging from parking meters and salary raises for city employees to problems that could have been decided by legislative action.

The end result costs the public treasuries millions of dollars in election day expense and, worse, it fosters a breed of spineless representatives who carefully weigh their political futures when action on their part was positively indicated.

The legend that the American voter somehow always comes up with the right decision is as valid as an old wives' tale. The history of America is replete with instances where the public has not been right, either in the choice of its representatives or in its great moral issues.

Ours is a government by representatives and the time to assure competent, rigorous and honest representation is at the ballot box. From that time hence it is up to these representatives to carry out the promises they made in offering themselves for election. When they fail, the public can recall or vote them out at the next election.

We would be tempted to feel highly of almost any candidate in either major party who would promise faithfully that when elected he would strive to solve all the problems before him and, with the exception in issues involving constitutional changes or bond issues, he would oppose any proposition being placed on the ballot.

This shirking of responsibility must be shared by the voters themselves. Far too many are swayed by emotional appeals with no basis in fact. When a proposition is placed on a ballot they vote either recklessly or entirely on emotional appeals that are more often spurious than they are sound.

With all the publicity given to the Employer-Employee Relations (Prop. 18) the average person you talk to will be either for or against it. If it happens to be a union man he's usually against it, and if he happens to be an employer he is urging its passage. You'll find about as much ignorance of the real facts of the proposition on both sides of the fence. The whole controversy and expense could have been avoided in California if the legislators had debated a "Right to Work" bill at Sacramento and reached a decision on their own.

Many of the other propositions could have been settled similarly without resort to the masses who are about as easily swayed as a juke box jury.

We contend a man who has decided to stand for election ought to be willing to stand on his own feet after he is elected. He should have the courage of his convictions and be willing to stand or fall on his record.

### Opinions of Others

An idea seems to be spreading throughout the United States that men and women achieve success through the operation of government rather than by their own patient persistence in honest endeavor. Citizens, particularly young men and women, should not be misled in this manner. They should realize that any worthwhile success in life is achieved almost exclusively through the personal endeavor of the individual involved.—Frederick (Okla.) Press.

Just a little over a hundred years ago, the New York correspondent of the Boston Transcript wrote an article announcing an invention which promised to obviate all such inconveniences as writing, errors of the press and copy work, and to "facilitate immensely the object of penmanship. Dr. Samuel W. Francis has been engaged in perfecting a machine whereby every man may become his printer. By an ingenious arrangement, keys, like those of a piano, by the pressure of a finger, stamp on paper, at will, the letters of the alphabet, and thus seated at the instrument you have only to spell out the required words, and indicate them by touching the ivory letters. Think of the comfort and convenience of such an article—as a piece of furniture it is compact and elegant."

Yes, indeed. The only thing Dr. Francis forgot to do is make everyone as perfect as his typewriter?!! (Eros) % - ess, iMdedel—Lemoz (S.D.) Independent.

STAR GAZER			
By CLAY E. FOLLAN			
1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize	4th Prize
5th Prize	6th Prize	7th Prize	8th Prize
9th Prize	10th Prize	11th Prize	12th Prize
13th Prize	14th Prize	15th Prize	16th Prize
17th Prize	18th Prize	19th Prize	20th Prize
21st Prize	22nd Prize	23rd Prize	24th Prize
25th Prize	26th Prize	27th Prize	28th Prize
29th Prize	30th Prize	31st Prize	32nd Prize
33rd Prize	34th Prize	35th Prize	36th Prize
37th Prize	38th Prize	39th Prize	40th Prize
41st Prize	42nd Prize	43rd Prize	44th Prize
45th Prize	46th Prize	47th Prize	48th Prize
49th Prize	50th Prize	51st Prize	52nd Prize
53rd Prize	54th Prize	55th Prize	56th Prize
57th Prize	58th Prize	59th Prize	60th Prize
61st Prize	62nd Prize	63rd Prize	64th Prize
65th Prize	66th Prize	67th Prize	68th Prize
69th Prize	70th Prize	71st Prize	72nd Prize
73rd Prize	74th Prize	75th Prize	76th Prize
77th Prize	78th Prize	79th Prize	80th Prize
81st Prize	82nd Prize	83rd Prize	84th Prize
85th Prize	86th Prize	87th Prize	88th Prize
89th Prize	90th Prize	91st Prize	92nd Prize
93rd Prize	94th Prize	95th Prize	96th Prize
97th Prize	98th Prize	99th Prize	100th Prize

## Wife Spinning Act



THE SQUIRREL CAGE by Reid Bundy

### The Long Road to Freedom

As we approach National Newspaper Week, which will be celebrated Oct. 1 to 3, we will hear quite a bit about freedom of the press.

Freedom of the press in the United States is a unique privilege granted to the American people—the privilege of having newspapers which can publish the truth about people and the government without prior restraint—or a censorship board.

The freedom was guaranteed as the first amendment to the constitution, the beginning of the Bill of Rights: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Establishing freedom of the press as a constitutional measure was a big step along the road to liberty. When books were handwritten and few people could read, no government had anything to fear from the recorded word.

After the introduction of printing to England by William Caxton in 1476—nearly 20 years before Columbus discovered America—the reading of books and publications increased rapidly.

Although printing and literacy increased rapidly, it was not until 1621 that the English coranto, forerunner of today's newspaper, made its appearance on the scene. Henry VIII, who had reasons to believe such a "newspaper" might get around to commenting on some of his affairs, proclaimed in 1534 that a government license would be necessary to publish news.

From that date on, the Court of the Star Chamber had the sole power to license such publications. This meant that censorship was a royal prerogative.

Early attempts to publish adverse criticism of the English government were treated as seditious libel, and juries empowered for a trial were permitted only to rule whether the actual article had been printed. The fact that it was true could not be considered.

At the time the English colonies were being established in America, little change had been effected in this matter. Some writers and publishers kicked over the traces—and consequently, many of America's early publishers

were quite familiar with the inside of a jail.

Although the first newspaper appeared in Boston in 1689, and others came and went at the whim of the government, one of the leading cases for a free press was the celebrated Peter Zenger trial in 1735. Eighty-year-old Andrew Hamilton eloquently persuaded the jury to disregard the law that truth could not be used as a defense in libel.

Thirty years later the Stamp Act and later the Townsend acts put further restraints on free publication of news, and the resulting complaints of the colonists were summed up in demands that publications be allowed to print newspapers critical of the government without interference.

Embittered by the restrictions imposed by George III, the framers of the constitution and its first 10 amendments, the Bill of Rights, had in mind a form of government which would be a safeguard against the recurrence of such abuses.

The American is the best informed citizen in the world today—not only about his own government but the international scene as well.

For this he can thank his newspaper.

This republic was founded on the optimistic premise that a well-informed public can intelligently choose its own leadership with skill and reject the political charlatans.

The fact that this belief—idealistic for those days—has worked is largely due to the ceaseless vigilance of our free press. It has proved that when the voter goes to the polls armed with the truth, the ballot is infinitely more powerful than the bayonet.

Too often however, the public takes our free press for granted. We are unaware of the obstacles, financial and otherwise, that are erected by those who slum the truth about their actions.

Much of the public also is unaware of the formidable devices employed by the self-seeking bureaucrats to perpetuate themselves in office.

The House Government Information Subcommittee, of which I am chairman, for three years has been studying these bureaucratic techniques used to deny the press

and public access to documents to which they are entitled.

The Federal censor, and his little brother the news manipulator, make pious pronouncements about the freedom of the press. But in their drawers are the stamps by which they improperly classify government documents in a wide range of categories.

In the name of "national defense" for example, the Pentagon has tried to classify the details of plush interiors of Air Force planes designed to ferry the high command around the world in comfort.

And when even the bureaucrats cannot justify the withholding of facts in the name of defense, they pull out stamps bearing quaint legends like "For Departmental Eyes Only" or "Administratively Secret."

The House Government Information Subcommittee even encountered an instance where a bureaucrat suggested an advertising boycott of a publication which failed to toe the line.

That the arrogant official failed was due to the determination of the press to give the public the truth.

The power of the press

## EUROPEAN REPORT

# Netherlands' Recovery Amazing, Publisher Says

By KING WILLIAMS  
Herald Publisher

NOORDWIJK, Holland — Two days of sightseeing and confabs with these thrifty Dutch have convinced this group of traveling publishers that a determined people can do the impossible.

These little Netherlands of 11 millions emerged from under the heel of a tough invader a little over 11 years ago with all but their courage badly damaged or destroyed. Yet today Holland shows many of the same flamboyant signs of the boom we in Southern California know so well. New building on every side and for every purpose has thousands at new jobs while their industrious countrymen keep their neat little farms in production and reclaim more and more land from a perishing North Sea.

Holland is growing in population and production within the limits of its short European boundaries, apparently undaunted by the shrinking of its wealthy possessions abroad and the pressures of new competitors in Europe and elsewhere. Adversity seems to stimulate these subjects of a democratic monarchy who are unafraid of work and content to pedal their way to the kind of prosperity so common in the United States.

We have seen this determination in the faces of the people of all ages who ride bicycles of a hundred varieties. Babies and dogs go along for the ride over hundreds of miles of paved pathways reserved for their special use. On brick and cobblestone highways their friends in the upper brackets speed by in motor scooters and tiny motor cars or an occasional American behemoth bearing the crest of Ford or Chevrolet.

All seem to be going somewhere and knowing where they are going. If they are on the way home it may be one of the picture book farms that dot the countryside. More often they will be pointing to a tiny apartment for Hollanders have become a nation of apartment dwellers with thousands of new ones under construction in and around Amsterdam, The Hague, Delft and Rotterdam.

The restricted living space hasn't killed the Hollanders' love for the soil and growing things. Each sparkling window pane in the most congested area frames a display of potted plants under lace curtains. Scrubbed thresholds and polished doorways are al-

most monotonous but they indicate to the passing world that the dweller within is proud of the tiny cell he can call his own.

To comprehend the vast strides made by these subjects of Juliana one must go back to his history books to look at the record of Dutchmen who sailed out from the ancient port of Amsterdam to find new worlds to conquer through trade relations, barter and exchange. Today the sun is setting on some of the possessions they won for their tiny homeland. But there is no omen of defeat with the rebuilt port of Rotterdam being the second largest business in the world and the Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM)

land when they come to Europe.

We were given a reception in the Amsterdam city hall shortly after our arrival at Schiphol airport. There we heard the burgemeester welcome us to the city and ask us to tell our people back home how grateful Holland is for its friendship with the United States. Sunday noon we were received at the American embassy in The Hague and were made to feel at home on this small but impressive piece of American soil abroad.

Our flight in two chartered KLM planes from New York was as uneventful as a trip from Los Angeles to San Francisco. We made one fuel



EUROPE BOUND . . . Shown just before flying to Europe last week end are several members of the National Editorial Assn. study group. In front are Publisher and Mrs. Ralph Turner, of the Temple City Times; Publisher and Mrs. W. E. Williams, of the Chicago Heights (Ill.) Star; and at the top, Mrs. Eva Young, Mrs. King Williams, and Herald Publisher Williams. The Star and Herald publishers are brothers.

flying farther and faster to stop at Gamler, N. F., and crossed Ireland just as the sun was rising.

The character of the people has a bearing on this record of success, perhaps, but the methods of their training may be the key. Dutch children go to modern schools six days a week. They are given Wednesday afternoon off to engage in extra curricular activities or the so-called frills such as music lesson, arts and crafts. Saturday afternoon is free for flying kites, bicycling for fun and soccer or the dozen other activities any normal child throughout the world considers fun.

We're told a foreign language is mandatory for the pupils of the elementary grades while high school students must take three language courses in addition to Dutch. Virtually all have at least ability to communicate and read French and English upon graduation. School hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Those able to go higher usually attend the great university at Leyden which has a high scientific standing throughout the western world. We saw this charming old university on Sunday and St. Peter's church with its plaque marking the site where our Pilgrim fathers actually began their trip to America.

We have been told it is the largest group of newspaper people ever to visit Europe at their own expense.

We will visit the fair for several days and then fly on to Paris to be on hand just as the French will be voting on their new constitution. We may be on hand at a most historic occasion in history.

Amsterdam, capital of the Netherlands, looks much as it has for centuries, retaining all the charm of medieval times with expanding facilities that make it keep pace with a progressing world. We saw rebuilt Rotterdam, its bombed out heart almost completely restored into a fantastically modern business and entertainment center.

And of course we have seen the canals and the windmills. Many of the canals still are in use and a few hundred of the 9000 mills that once did much of the pumping and grinding jobs still turn when the wind flows for some practical task or for the satisfaction of thousands of tourists who see Hol-

land when they come to Europe.

Planes of all kinds were arriving and departing from Schiphol, one of the busiest airports in the world. A Russian jet had landed an hour before us and, we were told, carried only seven passengers besides the crew. One publisher who watched the well dressed Russians go through customs remarked they were as insolent as their plane was impressive.

Our trip here, to Brussels and the fair and Paris, and London, offers lots of prospects for fun and entertainment but also has its serious aspects. Sponsored by the National Editorial Assn. and on special invitation from the Belgian government, we are to study the European Common Market and learn firsthand the current economic situation in the NATO countries so important to the future peace and prosperity of the world.

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land when they come to Europe.

"After you watch the crowd at a game where the referee makes a decision against the home team, you have some idea of the problem of world peace."  
—Herbert V. Prochnow.

"Divorce statistics indicate that the rate of separations decline sharply when the wife is a good cook. Whole-tome food has an essential charm to which beauty is not competitive."  
—Douglas Meador.

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