

Torrance Herald

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Co-Publishers
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Your Right to Know
Is the Key to All Your Liberties

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 1961

Censorship and Taxation

Censorship by taxation as a peril to the rights of speech and petition is inherent in rulings of the Internal Revenue Service disallowing income tax deductions of expenses of an individual or a business incurred while expressing opinions about legislation or other governmental actions.

There are bills before Congress now that would nullify the ruling and return to individuals and businesses the basic constitutional right to compete with tax-exempt groups and lobbying organizations who can plead their cases without losing their tax-exempt status. For Congress to do less than to place all on equal footing would be tantamount to denying the Bill of Rights and disavowal of the principle of fair play to an important segment of the population.

The ultimate danger in the IRS rulings lies in the threat that government could censor political views through punitive taxation and throttle all criticism.

The magazine Editor and Publisher summed up the situation by saying:

"The free press guarantee of the Bill of Rights was designed to give everyone equal opportunity to write as they pleased and to use a printing press to disseminate those opinions about public affairs, legislation, etc.

"The guarantee no longer is operative if the government can rule that the expression of certain opinions is taxable and the utterances of others is non-taxable. Once the precedent is established there will be nothing to prevent an extension of the ruling to enlarge the 'taxable opinion' — those opinions about public affairs, governmental procedure and legislation which may not be uttered without penalty of taxation by the government."

Congress should not be blamed for the existing situation but it does have the power to correct or nullify the action of any governmental department. It is to be hoped that the representatives of the people will recognize a duty and that the people themselves urge them to do so forthwith.

California Water Plan Still Causing Headache

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

It may not be receiving quite the attention in the news media that some legislative issues are getting, but the statewide water plan and its future constitute one of the most important and most controversial problems before our current session. Even though the voters approved the \$1.75 billion bond issue last November, there appears to be a long road to be traveled before construction can actually begin.

Many bills proposing to amend the water bond act in a variety of ways have been introduced in both houses. Proponents of the water plan label some of these measures as "negative" to the entire water development program. Sponsors of the measures deny this accusation, and say the bills are intended to strengthen and improve the law.

One group contend that the proceeds of the bond issue will be insufficient to finance both the Oroville Dam and the distribution system necessary to carry the water to the southern part of the state. Therefore they advocate that construction of the dam be turned over to the federal government.

The Senate fact finding committee on water resources issued a divided report on the water plan.

The majority of its members asserted that the present law fails to give the legislature authority to make an adequate review of proposed expenditures under the plan, and listed a number of possible alternatives for our consideration, which range from setting up a strict water budget by legislative action to the creation of a separate board, modeled after the state commission, to control disbursement of water funds. The minority claimed that to leave control over the individual projects to the legislature "could lead to some of the most harmful logrolling ever seen."

One element in the situation confronting us which is the subject of considerable dispute is the five-year contract into which the state has entered with the metropolitan water district for delivery of project water to the south. The legislature has authority to amend the contract, but any changes must be approved by the district or the contract becomes void.

Spokesmen for San Joaquin valley agricultural interests maintain that smaller northern California farmers have been "priced out" of the enormous water development benefits by the contract. They charge the state made concessions harmful to them in order to get the district's sup-

Shadow Boxing



Out of the Past

From the Files of the HERALD

The city council of Torrance 20 years ago was suffering pangs of embarrassment created by the purchase of two buses from a local automobile dealer and furnished by the Ford Motor Co. Ford at that time was embroiled in controversy with the CIO and

representatives of the local SWOC lodge protested the purchases of the equipment. The councilmen were warned by the late city attorney John McCall that cancellation of the contract might bring legal reprisals. Councilman George V. Powell moved the council rescind its action but the motion died for want of a second.

Although Torrance's population in the 1940 census was only 9950 it was credited with being the fastest growing incorporated area in Los Angeles county by the County Health Department, then as now serving the city's health needs. Manhattan Beach had enjoyed a 238 per cent increase in population in the previous ten year period. Palos Verdes Estates had only 987 residents and Redondo Beach was the metropolis of the South Bay area with 13,092.

Hopes that Alondra Park might have become the location for what has become Torrance Municipal Airport were dashed when County Supervisors asserted an enabling act was necessary for Alondra Park to qualify. No land price for the future location of the airport at its present site was known at the time but Torrance Chamber of Commerce officials were enlisting the aid of nearby towns and cities in an effort to secure location of the field in South Torrance.

A group of 29 Boy Scouts from Troop 219 enjoyed a week end at Swanis Winter camp at Big Pines. They were accompanied by their Scoutmaster, Merton Gilbert, his assistant Carmel Cook, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Barrington,

and others on the outing.

Rainfall on March 20, 1941 measured 26.05 for the season. 15.04 was considered normal for the period.

Robert Lewellen Jr. and Frank White, representing selections by Sons of the Legion and the Torrance Coordinating Council, were named to represent Torrance at the annual Boys State in Sacramento to be held in the summer of 1941. Both lads were Torrance Herald carrier boys.

Asserting that they have been paying flood control taxes on their holdings for years and receiving no benefits, agents for the Del Amo, Dominguez, and Carson estates renewed their demands that the Board of Supervisors provide relief from flood waters.

About 900 acres owned by the estates provide a huge catch basin for the surrounding property, estate representatives complained.

Under direction of Miss Ada Chase, a class of junior high school students were completing plans for a Mexican pageant to be presented to the public in June. Miss Chase had traveled extensively in Mexico.



Fallacies of Kennedy's Health Program Studied

"Though the people support the government . . . the government should not support the people." . . . Grover Cleveland.

PORTLAND . . . We could not disagree more with the whole concept of the administration health program now before Congress.

There is no question . . . none whatever . . . that the richest nation in the world can and should provide medical or other assistance to those who genuinely need it. But this should be a private or local matter . . . not a government project. In the first place the aged should be a family responsibility . . . an aged father or mother should be the responsibility of the children. If family aid is not possible, then other local agencies take over.

In all our history we always provided for the needy, whatever the age, through local assistance. As the number of oldsters rises—as costs of care rise . . . so has our local aid risen. Taxes have been increased and private agencies collect more money with which to render aid to the aged and the needy.

We even help many who foolishly dissipate their funds for liquor, dope, gambling, cars, non-essentials and leave the necessities and medical care for their neighbors to worry about. Many citizens regularly volunteer for social work. Our fine men's and women's clubs, philanthropies, churches, public and private agencies constantly give heart and service in behalf of the less fortunate.

All this and more is being done voluntarily for the needy as expressive of the humanitarian instinct of our people. This is the way it should be. But such politically inspired panaceas as the proposed Federal Health Program seek to change the traditional American concept of privately helping our fellow men into a federal government institution with the fantastic cost of distant and impersonal administration, not to mention the flagrant impositions upon private health plans, insurance and pension programs now in force.

The proposed health program provides that all persons 65 or over—about 14,250,000 who are now receiving Social Security retirement benefits — be given medical aid as needed. This program would be financed through a two-way boost in present Social Security taxes . . . first, the wage base on which Social Security taxes are paid would be increased from the present \$4,800 to \$5,000 by 1962 . . . and second, the tax rate paid by those who are working and their employers would be increased by one-quarter of one per cent by 1963.

The Congress last year defeated similar legislation because members of President Kennedy's own party preferred a less revolutionary method of providing care. In its place the last Congress approved a method of supplying aid through the states as advocated by President Eisenhower. This was a fair compromise between Mr. Kennedy's proposal at that time with the Republican version. It was also suggested that the compromise would allow time for study and experience of costs to be used for any enlarged future programs.

There is nothing in President Kennedy's proposal today to indicate that any study has been made . . . or that the program now is on any more of a sound basis than it was when it presented by him last year and lost. Our objections to his earlier version of the health bill are still valid today.

Our opposition to the health program stems from the fact that it does not belong in the Social Security program . . . because it violates the conditions on which Social Security was sold to the nation in the first place. Also because it discriminates against millions of people over 65 who are not covered.

In our opinion it is ethically improper to impose upon millions of younger employed people, struggling to make ends meet, the double burden of financing the care of those now over 65 (who did

not contribute a cent) and paying for their own insurance as well.

Under the compulsory conditions of the health program, participation would be required of millions who are already amply protected through private health and insurance plans.

The private institutions, insurance companies who sell and service those private plans, would be deprived of legitimate business under private enterprise by having their government, supported by taxes, invade another area of private function. The federal government is already engaged in literally hundreds of business in competition with private business and this is but another advance on the road to socialism.

To provide medical care to all over 65 who are now on the Social Security program is extravagant and unsound, because indigence in old age does not involve all who are past 65. The Kerr-Mills law on the books attempts to confine aid only to those who actually need it . . . and leaves the administration of old-age medical care to the states, which in turn are entitled to federal grants if they adopt acceptable programs. But the administration objects to the provision that state authorities must establish the oldster's need of aid before extending it . . . as though it were an affront to one's dignity to show he needs public aid, when other people's money is being offered.

The administration gives the impression that federal medical care, like Social Security, is a "matter of right" . . . which it is not. Obviously this has become a political and emotional issue . . . not a realistic one. The recipient of Social Security, for example, has paid but a fraction of what he receives. His employer has paid half of it . . . and what does the employer receive as a matter of right" out of the deal?

Even so, the financing of Social Security based on calculated payments is at least mathematically manageable. But health insurance is not . . . for who can foresee and calculate the cost and extent of mental illness, accidents, chronic sickness, senility, major surgery, and the myriads of real or imaginary illnesses that pyramid the problems of aging mind and flesh?

If medical aid is extended to people over 65 . . . why not to those under 65 . . . why not to those 45, 35, 25? Why not include prospective mothers, alcoholics, psychiatric patients, wayward mothers, retarded children, delinquent youth and punch-drunk fighters?

Private health programs have expanded enormously and continue to do so. They can be expanded further. This is the American way. So long as people live longer there will continue to be a great need for medical care of many of our senior citizens. The obligation of family and society is undeniable. But it is not the obligation of the federal government to constantly impose its will upon the states and local communities, enlarging its bureaucracy and payrolls thousands of miles from the point of need. The cost of implementing such federal programs is beyond the comprehension of the average taxpayer . . . not to mention the unfair political advantages and implications involved.

The administration health plan is full of other inherent abuses not covered in this limited column. It goes far beyond our normal concept of humanitarian aid to the needy. It has a strong odor of partisan politics . . . for it is not unreasonable to suggest that voting oldsters will look with favor to those who gave them a "free-ride" in medical aid.

The nation is again confronted with another spectacle of public servants thinking of the next election . . . while undermining the initiative of the next generation.

"The best government is that which teaches us to govern ourselves."
... Goethe

SHORT TAKES

"Unless the money grows on Washington's famed cherry trees, we fail to understand how medical care for the aged could be free" — Russel L. Metz, Publisher, The Owingsville (Ky.) News-Outlook.

"You may find some typographical errors in this paper. They were put in intentionally. The New Era tries to print something for everyone and some people are always looking for mistakes" — Richard Taylor, Publisher, The Talbotton (Ga.) New Era.

"Income tax forms are blankety blanks" — Ward Lowe, Publisher, The Lometa (Tex.) Reporter.

"Celebrating the Centennial anniversary of the Civil War doesn't enthrall us very much. It seems that something that caused so much sorrow and suffering as that war isn't anything to 'celebrate'. It might better be forgotten instead of fighting the war over again" — Dean C. Trip-

pler, Publisher, The Canova (S. D.) Herald.

"Our Country has gone 'survey mad'. If the millions of dollars, the manhours of work and effort were put into the project that is being surveyed to learn what 'ails' it, there would be no need for a survey" — Freida J. Monger, Publisher, Duluth (Minn.) Publicity.

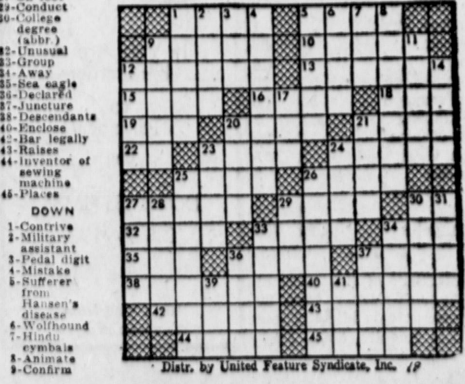
"I have heard many people talk about the good old days, but no one ever mentioned any virtues for the little house at the back of the lot on a zero morning" — J. W. Marben, Editor, The Lake Crystal (Minn.) Tribune.

"I ask a simple question. The truth is all I wish. Are all the fishermen liars, or do all liars fish?" — J. E. Laney, Sr., Editor, The New Boston (Tex.) Bowie County News.

"Now that the boss is back from vacation, paper glider production has dropped off 3,000 per cent" — Neil L. Maurer, Publisher, The Laurens (Ia.) Sun.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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Little Chats

On Public Notice

(Copyright 1960)
By JAMES E. POLLARD

FINANCIAL REPORT (No. 15 in a Series)
Spread across most of an inside page of a newspaper in an advertisement measuring about 12 by 14 inches was a detailed financial report. It was the "State of Maine Condensed Summary of Financial Statements" as of June 30 for that year. Under the signature of the state controller, it was a detailed presentation of the two main aspects of state finances: a comparative statement of operations and a balance sheet.

The comparative statement was for two years, the current year and the preceding one. It gave a detailed accounting of the revenues, expenditures, and "other amounts available," for the general fund, the highway fund and other special funds.

It then gave the consolidated totals. The balance sheet was similar except that there were twice as many headings. In the vertical column the chief items were recognized assets, liabilities, and reserves and surplus. Horizontally the funds were divided, under eight subheads, into "operating" and "other" funds.

Such financial reports are fairly common also for local governments, school districts, and other agencies. The one in question illustrated two important points. One, it was required by state law and, two, it was published in a bona fide newspaper. This is all part of the fundamental process of insuring the public's right to know. In this process the newspaper everywhere plays a vital role.

STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLARD

Your Daily Activity Guide
According to the Stars
To develop message for Sunday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

ARIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
TAURUS	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
GEMINI	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
CANCER	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
LION	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
VIRGO	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
LIBRA	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
SCORPIO	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
SAGITTARIUS	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108
CAPRICORN	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
AQUARIUS	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132
PISCES	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144