

It's Nothing Personal, Mort

Art Hoppe

What a cheery New Year's greeting I got in the mail: My Federal Income Tax Forms for 1961.

What's cheery about them this year is this "Personal Letter" to us taxpayers on the left-handed side of the front cover. It's from good old Mortimer M. Caplin. You remember Mort. He's our good old Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Well, Mort starts out, "Oliver Wendell Holmes, one of our nation's greatest judges, once wrote — 'Taxes are what we pay for civilized society.' Later, in saying he liked to pay taxes, he did not mention whether his enthusiasm included filling out tax forms. But we all know that the forms, as well as the taxes, are necessary..." And so on. And good old Mort winds up by saying the friendly folks down at our "nearest Internal Revenue office" will sure be "glad to help you." If we need any help. Help!

I think it's awfully nice of good old Mort personally to send us taxpayers a Personal Letter. (Government Form No. 59-16-76679-1.) And such a cheery one. I guess being chief federal bagman is a pretty thankless job and Mort was understandably worried about his image. So he wants all of us to think of our government as a warm, friendly, loving, motherly sort of institution.

I assume this marks a new trend. And to help out I've been working on other Personal Letters. Like Form No. 59-16-76679-2:

Dear Pal,

I guess it's kind of a surprise getting a personal letter from me, the President of the whole U.S. But you know how I'm always thinking of you personally. And I just had to drop you a personal line to see how you were. As for us we've sure been pretty busy back here in the old White House. But the wife's fine. (She sends you her best.) And the kids are getting bigger every day.

Well, I guess that's about all for now. Oh, yes. There's one other personal sort of thing I've been meaning to tell you:

You're drafted.

Opinions of Others

An open letter to Khrushchev:

You wouldn't understand such things, but the full force of America's patriotism is within her breast, it permeates her soul. It may be latent, but it is all-powerful. It would be the greatest tragedy in all world history for you to mistake human fears of nuclear war for a lack of courage and faith to fight and sacrifice for a priceless freedom which you and your people do not comprehend.

If you doubt this, let's go back to Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7, 1941, when America was caught napping...

Almost overnight, Americans were outproducing both Hitler and the Japanese warlords. They went from a few thousand warplanes to 300,000, from 464 outmoded tanks to 90,000 modern ones, from a trickle of shipping production to a peak of 24 million tons in 1943. They mobilized the greatest mechanized military machine in all history.

In addition, they picked your punch-drunk nation up off the floor and revived it to help turn back Hitler's legions. And American science gave the world nuclear power that ended the war, the secrets of which your country didn't have the ingenuity to fathom, but instead stole from us. This kind of a powerful America still lives today. It may be vulnerable to attack, but it remains indomitable to conquer. — Joblin (Mo.) Globe.

A farmer bought a painting, took it home, and hung it first one way and then another. Each time the effect was confusing. Finally his wife asked him, "What in the world is that supposed to be?" "Why," the farmer said, "it's a realistic picture of a farm situation. No matter how you look at it, it just don't make sense." — Merville (Iowa) Record.

Warmest Personal Regards,
Jack.

Frankly, come to think of it, I'm against this whole new trend. I figure every time the government gets personal, it spells trouble. And that's the way it should be. I know the government's got to tell us what to do. And I know we've got to do it. But I think it's downright dangerous when the government tries to get us to like being told what to do.

No, Sir. I think good old Mort should just write: "Pay up or it's the pokey!" Of course, I sure hope good old Mort won't get sore at me for saying so. Not personally.

State of Union Message Brings an Open Letter

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I listened to your State of the Union message twice and read the transcript to the press several times. As a private citizen I am compelled to comment on some of the points you made.

Your message appeared far removed from the fact that nearly 50 per cent of the voters disagreed with your campaign proposals. You catered then to the minorities, labor... and your support came mostly from the big-city machines. Yours was not a mandate.

Now, as president you took an oath to represent all the people. Your message did not sound like it. Instead, you persist in forcing more Socialist schemes which the majority of the American people abhor, just to satisfy either your personal ideas or the ideas of only half of the people who elected you.

In your State of the Union message you said: "In the past year I have traveled not only across the country, but in other lands, to the north, south and across the seas... and found that people everywhere, in spite of occasional disappointments, look to us, not for our wealth or power, but to the splendor of ideals."

It is amazing to this reporter how you can travel for a few days here and there... are wine and dined by the heads of state... and come up with such an extraordinary analysis of what millions of people think of us... people you have never seen nor talked with on your busy schedule abroad.

Your speech contains many such excellently worded tranquilized statements... but void of the "facts of life" you so eloquently referred to. Our experience as a correspondent, in actually talking with the people, indicates that they seek our money more than anything else... and many laugh up their sleeves at our gullibility.

The heads of state you talk to will not, of course, admit this.

You said: "A strong nation and economy require more than a balanced budget... they require progress in those programs that spur our growth and fortify our strength."

I gather this means that you believe that our growth and strength are fortified by increasing our present debt limit to over \$300 billion in the red. We could not disagree with you more, Mr. President.

You said: "I ask for stand-by authority, subject to Congressional veto, to adjust personal income tax rates downward within a specified range and time, to slow down an economic decline before it has dragged us down."

This mean that you want tax power which, under the Constitution, belong to Congress. We could not disagree

with you more, Mr. President.

You said: "Recession is only one scourge of a free economy... that inflation is another." And what causes inflation more than anything else but ever-increasing government spending.

How can you in one breath call for increased spending and a little later warn us about inflation? Your economic advisors are a little fuzzy, Mr. President.

You said: "The dynamics of democracy is the power and purpose of the individual; and the policy of this administration is to give the individual the opportunity to realize his own possibilities."

We don't know who put that one in your speech, but it doesn't sound like you really meant it. For almost all the rest of your speech on domestic programs talks about expansion of the welfare state in every phase of our economy. To the many previous Socialist schemes you have now added government aid to "medical and dental colleges and the establishment of national institutes of health." Could this be trying to get the foot in the door in medicine?

You further said: "Last year we improved the diet of needy persons, provided more hot lunches, built more

college dormitories, and for the elderly expanded private housing, nursing homes, health services and social security. But we have just begun."

I gather this to mean that all these services will be expanded. I also gather that this is what you mean, as previously quoted, that "the policy of this administration is to give the individual the opportunity to realize his own possibilities." If it is... I could not disagree with you more, Mr. President.

You said: "In 1961 the peace-making strength of the U.N. was reinforced... and the U.N. fulfilled its charter's lofty aims."

When 82 out of 104 nations are in arrears in paying their obligations to the U.N., the U.N. has not fulfilled "its charter's lofty aims." When the U.S. is called upon to buy 50 per cent of the U.N. bonds, there is something unlofty about it all.

You said: "The hopes have improved for a peaceful conciliation within a united Congo."

The invasion of Katanga by the U.N. troops, forcing capitulation by force of arms, is not "peaceful conciliation." Mr. President...

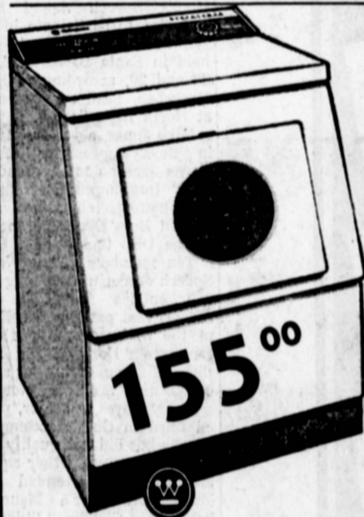
Your message was a literary masterpiece, Mr. President... well organized and prepared. But it had no guts in it.

It glossed over the same old political phrases we have been hearing for years. It called for more powers for you and more authority for a central government.

Torrance Church Calendar

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| <p>SOUTH BAY BAPTIST CHURCH 4555 Sharynne Lane Seaside Ranchos, Torrance Pastor, Dr. J. C. Brumfield FRONTIER 5-9433</p> <p>Sunday School... 9:30 A.M. Morning Worship... 10:45 A.M. — Junior Church Baptist Training Fellowship... 6:00 P.M. Evening Worship... 7:00 P.M.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY Bible study and prayer 7:30 P.M.</p> <p>THURSDAY Choir Rehearsal... 7:30 P.M. Modern Crib nursery and toddler care provided all stated church services. Sunday School Bus transportation schedule FRONTIER 5-9433.</p> | <p>CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 2706 W. 152nd St., Torrance Maynard V. Midthun, Pastor. Phone DAVIS 3-5821</p> <p>Res. DAVIS 3-5455</p> <p>Divine Worship, 8:30 A.M. Sunday School, 9:45 A.M. Divine Worship, 11:00 A.M.</p> <p>Nursery care provided at both services.</p> | <p>FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST 2181 St. and Manuel Ave., Torrance, Calif. Church Services—11 a.m. Wednesday Eve Meetings—8 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday School—9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Children under 10 year of age must be accompanied by parent or guardian for enrollment.</p> <p>Reading Room—1406 Cravens Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily except Sunday and Holidays. Also 7 to 9 p.m. Monday and Friday evenings.</p> <p>All are welcome to attend our services and to use our Reading Room.</p> |
| <p>FOUR SQUARE GOSPEL CHURCH Corner Arlington and Sepulveda Tel. DA 4-2072</p> <p>Rev. and Mrs. Jas. P. Lewen</p> <p>SUNDAY—Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>Group Services 6:30 p.m. (Y.P. Cadets, Defenders)</p> <p>Evangelistic 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>MIDWEEK Wednesday—Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>PUBLIC INVITED</p> | <p>ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH 2440 Hawthorne Blvd., Waltham</p> <p>Rev. O. W. Fish, Pastor FRONTIER 5-7753</p> <p>Sunday School—9:45 a.m. Morning Worship—11:00 a.m. Children's Church—11:00 a.m. Evangelistic Service—7:30 p.m. Tues. Prayer Meeting—7:30 p.m. Thurs. Young Peoples—7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>CENTRAL CHURCH EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN Marceline & Arlington Rev. Walter M. Stanton FA 5-3010</p> <p>9:30 — Sunday School 11:00 — Morning Worship 6:30 — Youth Fellowship 7:30 — Evening Worship Midweek Worship Services 7:00 Wednesday Evening</p> |
| <p>HOPE CHURCH EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN 8347 W. 174th St. Rev. Monrad Bergesen PH. DA 9-3277—Res. DA 9-5542</p> <p>9:30 a.m.—Sunday School 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship 6:30 p.m.—Youth Fellowship 7:30 p.m.—Evening Worship Bible Study and Prayer Meeting Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY—Bible Study 7:30 P.M.</p> <p>Communion Service and Prayer Nursery provided for all services, also sound proof mothers' room. ALL WELCOME</p> | <p>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH Corner of Acacia and Sonoma Elder Glen L. Goffar, Pastor Residence — FA 8-7531 Church Office — FA 8-1740</p> <p>Saturday— Sabbath School—9:30 A.M. Church Services—11 A.M. Wednesday— Prayer Meeting—7:30 P.M. Friday— Youth Meeting—7:30 P.M.</p> | <p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF TORRANCE (Disciples of Christ) 2530 El Dorado, Torrance Rev. H. Milton Sippel, Pastor Res. Phone FA 8-4583</p> <p>Two Sessions of Church School and Morning Worship, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Nursery provided at both sessions.</p> <p>Christian Youth Fellowship—7 p.m.</p> |
| <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH at Carson & Manuel St., Torrance, Calif. Phone FA 8-5030</p> <p>Morgan Gates, Pastor Robert Dehn, Asst. Pastor</p> <p>SUNDAY—3 Morning Services 9:15 A.M.—10:45 A.M.</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 for Nursery thru Juniors, College and Adults 10:45—Jr. High and High School Fellowship Training—4:15 P.M. Evangelistic Message—7:30 P.M.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY—Bible Study 7:30 P.M.</p> <p>Communion Service and Prayer Nursery provided for all services, also sound proof mothers' room. ALL WELCOME</p> | <p>COVENANT CHURCH 2221 Palms Verdes Dr. No. Allen W. Wickman, Pastor</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Classes for all ages and interest groups Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Evening Service at 7:00 p.m. Youth groups for Junior and Senior High School Youth at 6:00 p.m. Nursery and Children's church services each Sunday.</p> | <p>FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Carson and Flower Phone FAIRfax 8-5554 William J. Roleder, Pastor Gerald Peterson, Intern</p> <p>9:00 & 10:45 a.m.—Worship Service 9:45 & 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School Children and Adults 10:45 a.m.—Worship Service (Nursery at 10:45 Service) Holy Communion—First Sunday Luther League—2nd and 4th Sundays.</p> |
| <p>GREYFRIARS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN (Orthodox) 22511 South Figueroa, Torrance Worship hours 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Every Sunday</p> <p>Sunday School at 9:45 Young People's Fellowship at 4:15 Prayer Meeting every Wednesday Evening at 7 o'clock David Childerswood—Pastor Mr. Richard Gorom Supt. of Sunday School Rev. Will Power Director of Choir</p> | <p>SOUTH BAY CHURCH OF GOD 17851 Yukon, Torrance Phones DA 9-8411 or FA 1-2674 Pastor: Rev. Clifford L. Tierney Associate Pastor: Rev. Clifford L. Hitecock</p> <p>9:30 a.m.—Sunday School 11:00 a.m.—Church 7:00 p.m.—Evening Services Nursery Care Provided</p> | <p>DEL AMO SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH 317 S Broadway, Redondo Beach (Permanent Location) 226th St. & Ocean Ave. FR 1-3923</p> <p>Sunday School—9:45 A.M. Training Union—6 P.M. Worship Services— 11 A.M. and 7 P.M. Pastor, Daniel B. Weaver Jr.</p> |
| <p>ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1423 Engracia, FA 8-9781 Rev. Hugh R. Percy, R. D. Rector</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Family Worship Service followed by Church School and Coffee Hour 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship (Choral Eucharist on 1st and 3rd Sundays) (Child care and Nursery provided at 9:15 and 11 a.m. services)</p> <p>Holy Communion at 11 a.m. Wednesdays: Thursdays and 6:30 a.m. on All Saint's Days</p> | <p>ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH 417 Vincent St., Redondo Sunday Masses: 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 11:15 and 12:15 o'clock High Mass, 9 A.M.</p> | <p>FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 1501 West Carson Ponder W. Gilliland, Pastor PH. FA 8-4980</p> <p>9:30 A.M. Sunday School 10:45 A.M. Worship Nursery Children's Church 6:00 P.M. Youth Fellowship 7:00 P.M. Evening Service The Happiest Hour of the Week 7:30 P.M. Wednesday evening "Come Ye Apart Hour"</p> |
| <p>FRIENDSHIP BIBLE CHURCH YMCA Building 2080 Washington Torrance G. E. Ney, Pastor TR 4-8777</p> <p>Sunday School—10:00 a.m. Morning Worship—11:00 a.m. Evening Service—7:30 p.m. Thursday Bible Study—6:45 p.m. (Pastor's home)</p> | <p>FIRST METHODIST CHURCH Torrance Carson at El Prado Phone: FA 8-2242 Rev. Gilbert B. Zimmerman Res. Phone: FA 8-6231 Rev. Edward D. Goodell TR 4-8777</p> <p>2 Sessions of Morning Worship and church school at 9 and 11 a.m. Nursery provided. 6:30 p.m. Methodist Youth Fellowship Meetings</p> | <p>UNITY Classes Adults and Children Sunday mornings 10:45 a.m. 1610 Acacia (at Sonoma), SDA Church Torrance Affiliated with Unity School of Christianity Lee's Summit, Missouri Call FR 8-4230 for information</p> |

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