

# Torrance Herald

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REID L. BUNDY - Managing Editor

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## For Ken Miller

In choosing three members of a City Council from a slate of 20 candidates one could be pardoned if he resorted to the time-tested process of elimination. In applying this test to the candidates seeking election here next April 10, one man emerges as being particularly qualified to fill the office he seeks—Ken Miller.

Mr. Miller, a native of Torrance, has an enviable record as a Torrance businessman and civic leader, and has already demonstrated those qualities which thoughtful men seek in their public officials.

He has served as president of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors and has been a director of that important organization for four years.

He is currently area chairman for the American Red Cross campaign, and is a member of the American Legion, Torrance Kiwanis Club, and Elks Lodge.

In addition to these qualifications, Mr. Miller has been trained to reach sound decisions. He was graduated from Occidental College with a bachelor's degree and did post-graduate work at the University of Southern California which earned for him a teaching credential.

He is presently a member of the city Planning Commission and has demonstrated the ability to stand firm on his convictions that any decision there must be made for the good of the entire community.

His business, civic, and family background stamp Ken Miller as a man of high ideals, sound in character and ability to reason.

For these reasons, the HERALD endorses Mr. Miller's candidacy, and recommends him to the voters of Torrance as a man worthy of their votes.

## A Community Loss

The Southland lost a giant in the death this week of Robert I. Plomert Jr., tax specialist for Mobil Oil Co.

Particularly active in Torrance affairs, where he twice served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Plomert probably knew as much about the finances of city budgets and school districts throughout the Southland as did many of the officials who put them together.

A recognized authority on finances, he was always a frontliner in the fight to make every tax dollar count. But his work with communities such as Torrance didn't stop there.

He was a prime mover in the campaign to finance construction of the Little Company of Mary Hospital here and served as president of the hospital's board of advisors after it was established.

He was interested in the city's schools, and was a regular at the monthly meetings of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee meetings.

He was in Torrance last Friday to participate in the annual Business-Industry-Education Day events in the city schools.

Monday, while on a business trip to San Francisco, he died suddenly.

Mr. Plomert, a big man in community affairs, will be missed greatly.

## Morning Report:

THE GOVERNMENT announced big savings in bronze plaques for new post offices because President Kennedy's name is shorter than President Eisenhower's. The saving is small as missiles go, but is still not peanuts.

It also opens up a brand-new basis on which to elect Presidents. The shorter the name, the better is the chance to balance the budget—always a big issue at election time if not thereafter.

So, looking to 1964, Kennedy (with 7 letters) is already closely behind Romney (6) and Nixon (5), but well ahead of Goldwater (9) and Rockefeller (11).

Abe Mellinkoff

## ROYCE BRIER

# Soviet Food Shortage As Bad as Our Surplus

The dispatch quoted Premier Khrushchev as telling his Central Committee the Soviet meat shortage isn't due to failure to fulfill plans or to poor distribution, but "the matter is that we simply do not have enough meat."

"This reminded one with a long memory of an aphorism attributed to Mr. Coolidge, that "when more and more people can't find jobs, unemployment results."

In any case, Comrade Khrushchev is in an agricultural time that tries men's souls, and we may well doubt if quota failures and maldistribution can be brushed off.

It is of interest and crucial importance that the two super-nations of our time are at opposite poles in agricultural production.

Recently Dr. Albert Burke, discoursed on America's overproduction of farm products,

particularly foodstuffs. He noted a runaway productive capacity, in which one farmer can now produce enough food to sustain 25 persons.

Though it doesn't work a hardship, other than financial, this is almost as embarrassing as short production, because we have to store billions of dollars worth of food and non-food products, and even politicians can't make social sense out of such a situation.

When Khrushchev visited the United States a couple of years ago he was a zealot for corn production. This was the beginning of his big boast that the Soviet Union would in the next decade overtake the United States in both agricultural and industrial production.

But this, as is the way with economics, is easier said than done.

In his Central Committee speech, Khrushchev blamed Stalin for having favored

## Your Communist Membership Card



James Dorais

# Co-op Tax Advantages Catch Eye of Congress

Of all the so-called tax loopholes—these inconsistencies in the Federal tax structure that give an unwarranted break to certain taxpayers at the expense of all the others—none is more real nor more costly than the tax-free privilege of that class of business operation known as the "cooperative."

President Kennedy, as did President Eisenhower before him, has called for amendments in the Internal Revenue laws to close this major loophole, and it is expected that a concerted effort to provide equitable taxation for cooperatives will be made at this session of Congress.

Originally established by farmers to obtain better prices through group action in marketing produce and buying supplies, cooperatives were granted broad income tax exemptions by Congress. Of the 9,800 farm co-ops now in existence—with a membership of 7,500,000—many still restrict themselves to these limited functions. The important California marketing co-ops are primarily in that category.

But in other areas, particularly the Midwest and South, as a recent Reader's Digest article points out, co-ops have expanded into manufacturing, processing, mining, transportation, warehousing, oil refining, banking insurance and

other areas in direct competition with taxpaying businesses. Capital to finance this expansion is obtained from profits which in the case of other businesses are taxed at a high rate but which are retained, tax-free, by the co-ops.

Until World War II the Federal income tax rate was so low that tax-free competition from co-ops posed no particular problem. Today, however, corporations pay taxes of 30 per cent on earnings up to \$25,000 and 52 per cent on earnings above that figure. Dividends paid to stockholders after corporate taxes are taxed again under individual income tax rates.

In the case of co-ops, however, all earnings are distributed—on paper—to members as "patronage dividends."

But many co-ops pay only a small percentage of these patronage dividends in cash, and members pay taxes only on actual cash received. The cash retained by the co-op—for which members receive stock or credit—is tax free and available for capital expansion.

Many businesses have been forced into bankruptcy or bought out by the co-ops in recent years as a result of this unfair tax-free competition.

The most serious aspect of the co-op tax loophole, however, is that the millions of profit dollars which escape taxation by this means must be made up by other businesses—whether in direct competition with co-ops or not—and by individual taxpayers everywhere.

## Hoppe in Wonderland

# Telephone Buttons Mark Status in Some Tribes

Art Hoppe

WASHINGTON — When visiting a strange country, like Washington, it's incumbent on us responsible ace newsmen to file "a backgrounder." You know, a lengthy review of annual rainfall and grazing conditions with a few paragraphs about quaint native courting customs tossed in to sex things up a little.

Well, Washington is several miles square and is about as tall, say, as the Washington Monument, give or take a little. It is surrounded on all four sides by reality. The winters are not too hot. Neither is the rest of the climate. The natives, in general, are sunless.

While the outside world refers to it as "Washington," the natives call it "The District." Short for "District of Columbia." And the natives, of course, do not think of themselves as "experts." The population, at the moment, consists of 998,762 experts and two tourists from Camden, Ohio, who on being interviewed said they hadn't the foggiest notion what was wrong with U.S. foreign policy.

The main industries are eating, drinking and talking. The major import and export—in fact, the staple of the economy—is money.

As in many of the new African nations, the natives of Washington belong not to

one but to numerous separate and distinct tribes, each spiritedly warlike and fiercely jealous of its prerogatives. The best known of the local tribes are, of course, the "Solons," occupying the strategic heights of Capitol Hill and the "Kennedys" who live on the flats perhaps a mile away.

Warfare between the two, which is linked to historic traditions, has currently broken into the open. And while the Kennedys are the more numerous, the Solons are clearly winning thus far, thanks to their fierce independence and their strategic position.

Lesser known, are the numerous other interesting tribes of the flats. Such as "State," "Commerce," "Interior," "NRA" (now extinct) and so forth. While nominally joined by treaty with the Kennedys, the lesser tribes devote most of their energies to battling each other.

Nor are they above negotiating independent settlements with the Solons, the attitude of their sub-chiefs being that they were here before the Kennedys and will be here after and have to preserve their hunting grounds as best they can.

The young warriors are prepared for leadership in these devious ways by an institution known as "shaft-

## AFTER HOURS By John Morley

# Social Security's Myth Given Further Scrutiny

SAN FRANCISCO — Federal social security has now been in force for over 26 years . . . and it is fair to state that most Americans like the whole idea. This being so, no matter what happens, Uncle Sam (whoever he may be at the time) will take care of them in their old age.

He will send them a check even if the don't need it. Undoubtedly this is a very comforting thought. Comforting that is . . . if you don't ask how come and where the money is coming from . . . for the recipients of social security checks know they did not pay enough money in to warrant such return.

Social security stems from the idea that "society" accepts the responsibility for taking care of those who cannot care for themselves. Under honest circumstances this is proper and understandable . . . and private and state agencies have always done the job.

One of the major objections to federal social security is that it is compulsory. Even if you don't need it, or don't want it, you have to take it.

It's like a millionaire receiving a social security check from Uncle Sam for \$85 a month, partially paid by taxing the maid who scrubs his kitchen floor. It's happening all the time.

As we write our syndicated columns we realize in advance now and then that what we say is not popular. This is a case in point.

After we're all through saying it . . . many of our readers will still like social security, for obvious reasons. For the reason that it is a "big bargain" for a lot of people.

It's like a bankruptcy sale. People rush to buy goods at bankrupt prices and hardly feel a pang of conscience for the man who is going broke.

Since the Social Security act went into effect in 1935, the tax to support it has constantly risen. Today it calls for a 3 1/2 per cent of covered payroll up to \$4,800 per year each on employer and employee. By 1968 the combined tax paid by employer and employee will amount to 9 1/2 per cent.

In spite of this enormous increase, Secretary Ribicoff, through his assistant, Prof. Wilbur Cohen, advocates that the social security base

should be increased from \$4,800 to \$9,000 per year income. This is the pattern of socialist bureaucrats once they get the foot in the door. The federal payroll increase to handle these schemes in the past 35 years shocks the imagination.

The Washington socialists will try to push health care for the aged through the new Congress, their arguments being that disability is greater among the aged, and the cost of health care has risen out of reach of our older citizens. Also the private health insurance companies are not competent to meet the need.

No one will deny that older people have more medical problems. But it is unfair and dishonest to say that as a group they are unable to pay for medical care. To the contrary, most older couples are better able to meet health costs than their children, who are still raising families and paying off mortgages.

For the minority of older people who cannot pay for medical care there are funds available through the Kerr-Mills bill of 1960. Why go beyond that? And who is responsible for skyrocketing costs in everything, but government inspired inflation?

The allegation that private insurance cannot meet the need is also false. No business in the land has achieved a better record than private

insurance in tailoring the cloth to fit the public need. And no single segment of our economy has made a greater contribution to the needy than the doctors of the nation.

It is naive or ignorant to believe that government can do anything cheaper and better. The very enormity of government bureaucracy, with its inherent politics—not to mention the necessity for forms, duplications, signatures, counter-signatures, etc.—always involves administrative and clerical costs far beyond those required in private business.

Government creates no wealth. It can only take from one to give to another—while losing a significant part of the nation's life blood in the transfusion and transfer. It all depends on your individual beliefs whether you approve or disapprove government bureaucracy and intrusion into the province of private business.

We disapprove the socialist philosophy that forces a citizen of California to pay taxes, some of which are used to build TVA, so the citizens of Tennessee can buy electric power at a lower price than the taxpayer in California. This is robbing Peter to pay Paul . . . and it all depends on whether your name is Peter or Paul . . . as to how much you care.

## Around the World With



# DELAPLANE

"How do I ship more than my airline allowance of 44 pounds?"

American Express knows the answers to this. Sea freight or air freight. Mark the things "Unaccompanied baggage" or "Unaccompanied household effects" or you'll be paying high duty.

"... a yacht trip that will take passengers out of Florida?"

I don't know about yachts unless you charter—an expensive thought. But there's a fleet of windjammers operating out of Bimini in the Bahamas. You fly from Miami Beach.

It's a 10-day cruise, sailing in a fleet of three ships through the Bahamas and helping with running up sails, etc. About 20 passengers a cruise, first and fifteenth of each month. Cost, \$175 to \$250.

Write Captain Mike Burke, P. O. Box 1051, Miami Beach, Fla.

"Where can I get a driver's license good for all Europe?"

Most of Europe now allows you to use your U. S. license. But a good all-purpose license and identity card is the International Driving Permit for \$2, with two passport-size photographs at any AAA office.

"... a small, inexpensive hotel for American tastes in London?"

The Washington Hotel on Curzon street (back of the Mayfair) is recommended by a reader, I've seen it. Looks good, good location.

"Any good, typical Mexican restaurant in Mexico City?"

Hostaria del Santo Domingo in the old part of town, near the Plaza de la Corregidora, is certainly typical. But you might find it too much so. Doesn't present the clean appearance of the Hilton.

Great section of town, though. Lots of original Conquistador mansions here—great stone palaces with courtyards, solid doors and carriage entrances.

A tourist place but good Mexican food from all over is El Refugio at 166 Liverpool. Cafe Tacuba is very authentic but only serves at noon.

Circulo del Sureste is Yucatan food and Yucatan beer, which many people think is the best in all Mexico.

"Any good rule to follow in tipping in the different coinage of European countries?"

There are a number of guides to this—your airline probably has one.

But I like the David Dodge ("Poor Man's Guide to Europe") method:

Dodge gets the price of a bottle of beer on the local market. He figures that price can be used for tipping as we would figure a quarter in the U.S. That is a tip for a bellboy. The price of a shoeshine. A tip for a hat-check girl, etc. Works out very well.

Stan Delaplaine finds it impossible to answer all of his travel mail.

For his intimate tips on Japan, Italy, England, France, Russia, Hawaii, Mexico, Ireland, and Spain (10 cents each), send coins and stamped, self-addressed, large envelope to the Torrance HERALD, Box RR, Torrance, Calif.