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Is This Trip Necessary?

The city returned to normal this week—department heads, City Council members, and other city officials are back in town and ready to tackle the every-day problems of running a city of 120,000.

We can assume that things will be running along with more efficiency now that the best brains of California's metropolitan managers have been dissected and the knowledge found therein pumped into the heads of our own officials.

That is what conventions such as the annual League of California Cities gathering in San Francisco last week are designed to accomplish.

Somewhere, however, there must be a point of diminishing returns, and a number of Torrance citizens reflect on the several convention trips of councilmen with some misgiving.

Earlier this year councilmen flew off to Houston to increase their knowledge of municipal affairs.

To gain still more knowledge in the field of municipal government, councilmen—and some wives—flew off to Hawaii this summer.

Last week members of the City Council and city employees made up a 15-man delegation to the San Francisco convention.

We hope all this conventioning will be reflected in added efficiency in the city government, but wonder if much of the same information could not have been obtained by fewer delegates under instructions to report back to colleagues on the new ideas presented at the meetings.

The city's finances, already strained to provide services for a burgeoning population, should not be further strained to finance trips which may not be absolutely necessary.

The next airline reservation may be the one that proves too much for the tax-laden citizen. One question should be asked, therefore, when all such conventions are contemplated:

"Is this trip necessary?"

On Deficit Spending

A large group of university economists recently signed a statement of fiscal principles. One plank holds that current government deficits are neither dangerous nor inflationary; another minimizes the importance of our huge federal debt.

If these economists are correct, the fiscal history of nations has embarked on a new direction. Continued deficits on the part of government, like continued deficits on the part of a family, have always led to disaster. The difference is that government, with its ability to draw upon all the savings and earnings and resources of its people, can stave off the day of reckoning.

This is mindful of the old arguments of what might be termed the "part-time Keynesians"—those who used the writings of the late Lord Keynes as justification for deficit spending. But they skipped over the fact that Keynes regarded this as a proper course only under certain conditions, such as a great depression.

Since the war we have had deficit after deficit, inflation piled upon inflation, and, with them, the 50-cent dollar. Its value is still slowly declining. Can anyone rationally argue that this is not an example of cause and effect?

Opinions of Others

CARLSBAD, N. M., CURRENT-ARGUS: "It is easy to fall into the error of supposing that automation, of which so much is heard, confronts society with problems different in kind from anything that has gone before. This is not true. . . . Consider the experience of William Caxton one of the great trailblazers in the art of printing. It was in the 15th century that he set up a London establishment to print books in English. The Guild of Stationers objected to his newfangled method of using machinery to turn out books. They wanted to know what would happen to the scribes whose livelihood depended on the demand for books copied by hand. What happened was that the printing trade absorbed the copyists and soon provided jobs for many other men."

PELHAM, GA., JOURNAL: "It may surprise a lot of people but every time a doctor steps at the scene of an accident and voluntarily renders emergency aid, he is taking a risk. For, strange as it seems, they can be sued if the victim they stop to help dies or is maimed. Recently one state enacted a law to protect the humanitarian doctor who stops to render aid in emergency. The law passed only after it became known that insurance companies and lawyers were sometimes advising doctors to keep moving when they came upon a wreck!"

SIoux RAPIDS, IOWA, BULLETIN-PRESS: "There is no logical or common sense reason for anyone to be a pessimist living in the United States, if he will only open his eyes and see. As an individual in the United States, you have free access to its gigantic wealth through your own initiative and ability. As long as you do not encroach upon the rights of others, you can acquire as much of it as your capacity warrants. It is all yours."

GRAYSON, KY., JOURNAL-ENQUIRER: "If the U. S. has enough nuclear weapons to kill three times the present world population, as many believe, and it wishes to maintain this ratio, it probably will have to step up production, as the world population is increasing rapidly."

The Wig



ROYCE BRIER

Wheat Deal Has Historic Precedent as 'Civilizer'

Around the year 700 A.D. the neo-barbarians of north Europe were visited annually by thousands of peddlers with goods from the Middle East. They often used donkeys and pursued regular routes like a traveling salesman.

Over the centuries this trade did much to civilize the north Europeans, bring their crude culture closer to the old Mediterranean culture. These strange, faraway traders were in fact given a kind of immunity, even though the tribes were savagely fighting among themselves.

Perhaps the neo-barbarians were smarter than we are, for when we quarrel with each other our first concern is to restrict all trade. Yet trade itself is the greatest of all civilizers, discouraging war and chaos. It is more effective than high ideals and negotiation, for it is more direct in its appeal to self-preservation.

President Kennedy has agreed to the sale of surplus American wheat to the Soviet Union, which is suffering from a grain shortage. Mr. Kennedy did this hesitantly, for the enterprise has many delicate ramifications, domestic and foreign, and his political opposition had put him on notice.

The President "defended" his decision on many pragmatic grounds: aid to the tax-

payer who supports farm surplus, help in our balance of payment problem, that it is humanitarian, that the sale would be by private operators, that it would not aid Russian heavy industry, that the Russians could buy elsewhere, anyway.

His opponents promptly attacked. Some Republicans charged he was evading congressional policy on commodity sales to Communist nations, that this was an opening wedge to build up the Russians, that it should have had congressional approval.

These arguments, both for and against, makes an interesting political wrangle, but it may be they do not go to the heart of the matter. It may be that trade, by which we all live, is a foremost key to human understanding and human peace. Conversely, it may be that restriction of trade in every form is a foremost prod to human misunderstanding, suspicion and animosity.

We have plenty of misunderstanding with the Russians. We don't like their social system or their international conduct. We can't afford to hand them weapons which might be used against us. But it is going far to equate food with weapons in the present circumstance. It smacks of keeping an enemy solely because we want one. The United States is the greatest producer of peaceful

goods in all history. Shall we fanatically withhold them from the stream of world trade merely because we disapprove of prospective buyers?

A Bookman's Notebook

By WILLIAM HOGAN

One of the few recipients of the Nobel Prize of Literature, Pearl S. Buck remains one of the most conscientious American novelists. Never has this been more evident than in her long, intricate, meticulously researched and exhausting panorama of Korean family life, "The Living Reed."

This is a classic in literary Oriental rugwork. It is also a series of sober lectures on Korean history, ideology and political struggles plus side excursions into the filial and cultural fabric of the land. It traces three generations of a long-established wealthy clan from the 1880s to the end of the second World War, with additional hints of what will follow. It thus encompasses the modern history of what Mrs. Buck feels is the Asian country least known to the West, although America has been engaged in a war there.

If the novel is really knowledge, as the essayist Dan Jacobson has noted, Mrs. Buck shows her vast knowledge of Korea on her readers here. She almost forces this knowledge on a reader. Like an unusually informed schoolmarm, she clearly has a duty to make us aware of Korean family life, court life, revolution, treachery, poverty and love. In presenting all this, her feat of organization is both remarkable and over-long, in the 18th Century style.

The novelist Wright Morris told an interviewer not long ago that no book of his can be read under a hair-dryer. Nor can "The Living Reed" be read casually. If my experience is at all typical, however, I feel that many readers are going to get weary during these lectures before Mrs. Buck makes her central point. This is: No matter how many shoots an enraged man might tear off a bamboo tree, the root is always alive; in the fabric of a nation, as in trees along a river bank, there will always be living reeds.

Broadly, we observe "that golden fruit hanging between Russia, China and Japan" within the framework of the Kim family. The central character is Kim Il-ham, whom we meet as a youth steadfastly devoted to his queen and who follow him to his very old age (Continued on Page 15)

AFTER HOURS By John Morley

In Search of Facts as He Travels the World

"Travel . . . is a part of education" — Bacon

EN ROUTE TO LATIN AMERICA—As you read this, I will be in Mexico City, from Washington, D.C., on the first leg of our news trip around the world.

We shall report in these columns the most significant facts, direct from Latin America, Europe, parts of Russia and the iron curtain, the Middle East, returning from Korea next February. This will be the longest sustaining news trip of all our previous 35 in most of these areas of Communist challenge around the world.

As always, we shall report what we see and hear . . . without political expediency. We shall lay the truth on the line, subject to human frailty and error.

Our foreign policy has three major objectives:

- To preserve the liberty and strength of the U.S. and Free world . . . and resist the pressure of the two Communist giants, Russia and Red China.

- To exert every effort to keep this pressure from exploding into nuclear war . . . or to consume blood and billions in limited wars.

- To have in force a long-range plan for a world order capable of securing peace . . . but do so with justice and freedom for all men who seek it.

I propose to report the progress of our foreign policy . . . the gains and losses . . . as they really exist and not as the political propaganda reports them.

Russia and Red China are determined, each in its own way, to bury us . . . today, tomorrow and for as long as the opportunity exists. They are fanatically driving to expand Communist influence everywhere . . . and this poses a constant threat to peace.

We see no evidence now, as we start . . . nor on any of our previous world news trips . . . that Communist expansionist ambitions have ever subdued in the slightest. Treaties, or no treaties, the pattern of "burial of the U.S." is foremost in the Communist strategy.

As I begin this unpredictable and complicated news trip . . . and drawing from several of my more recent assignments . . . U. S. prestige is losing ground all over the world, sometimes for reasons beyond our control, but too often of our own making.

Our declining prestige began with the loss of initiative in the Korean War when we compromised our principles and our determination to win. It was the first war ever lost by the U.S. . . . and we were eyewitness to that defeat as a war correspondent from 1950 to 1953.

We lost ground as a result of the spectacular Soviet space feats . . . our humiliating setback in Cuba . . . our indecision over the Berlin wall . . . our miscalculations in the Congo, Laos, Vietnam . . . our split with France . . . the overflow of gold . . . the challenge of the Common market . . . deficit spending, resulting in our \$300 billion public debt and weakening of the dollar. These and other similar setbacks are not calculated to raise U. S. prestige.

Furthermore, we allowed ourselves to get caught in the middle in too many local conflicts, like . . . between Arabs and Israelites . . . the French and Algerians . . . Belgians and Congolese . . . Dutch and Indonesians. We even strained our relations by interference with our neighbors in Canada and Mexico.

Laos and Vietnam were among our most unfortunate miscalculations.

Under-Secretary Averell Harriman, who negotiated the test-ban treaty, entered into an agreement with Russia on Laos, which the Communists violated. But instead of telling the Reds off, we continued to this day to pour in more American blood and

"There are two kinds of secrets: those that are not worth keeping, and those that are too good to keep."—John W. Moore, Plains (Tex.) Record.

millions with no hope in sight.

We did the same in Vietnam.

Instead of learning from experience with Communists, we are continuing to woo such other double-leaders as Tito and Nkrumah.

We are conducting an interventionist policy to extremes unknown in our history.

We seem to be pursuing impossible policies . . . and inevitably get involved in impossible situations . . . like Korea, Berlin, Yugoslavia, Congo, Palestine, Laos, Vietnam, among the dismal list.

The world, for good or evil, is straining and draining the resources even of the richest country in the world . . . while some of the recipients are privately thumbing their noses at our gullibility.

We appear to be charging in all directions all over the globe with constant involvements in local conflicts. And the cost is draining us dry. How long we can keep trying to bail out the world only time will tell.

It will be our purpose to throw some factual light on where we stand and where we are going . . . as one American trying to ascertain the truth.

We hope readers of "After Hours" across the country will follow us around the world, as we attempt to put the pieces of the world jigsaw puzzles into an eye-witness perspective.

Our Man Hoppe

The Bomb and a Village

Art Hoppe

Wilton Park, England

We sat up late in the paneled study of the old castle, talking about the Bomb. There were three Germans, two Austrians, a Frenchwoman, and Englishman and three Americans.

All were intelligent, highly informed people here for an international conference. Words and phrases like "escalation," "Proliferation" and "multilateral NATO nuclear force" flew back and forth across the room like shuttlecocks.

For two hours we talked. If the Russians attacked Western Europe with conventional weapons, could the Europeans rely on the Americans to come to their defense with nuclear weapons? Thereby probably destroying civilization? Or should the Europeans build their own nuclear force? The problem was inordinately complex. Argument built on argument. It was like a game of three-dimensional chess. Most of us were leaning forward, elbows on knees, tremendously stimulated. For it was exciting.

This morning, I awoke an hour before dawn. Unable to sleep, I dressed, left the ancient castle and walked down the narrow lane toward the village of Steyning. Perhaps a mile or so away. Night still clung in the treetops and the hedgerows.

When I reached the village, the street lights were piling. The stores along the narrow main street were dark except for a yellow glow coming through the open door of the stationer's shop where newsboys were picking up their morning papers. I turned left onto a side street. Steyning is an old village, centuries old. It is quiet, neat, charming, and very real. As the light grew, I watched it wake. I watched it wake as it has each morning for centuries.

I saw a light go on in a cottage and heard a man and pause for a moment to rub the back of his neck. I cough. I saw a tradesman unlock the door of his shop saw two workmen in caps and rubber boots, lunchpails in hand, walking unhurriedly across the street, each wrapped in silence. Through a lighted window I saw a baker kneading dough and I smelled his bread.

I paused for a moment by the 11th Century Norman church to watch a young man in a tweed jacket take a shortcut through the graveyard over a well-worn path which wound between tombstones so weathered that wind and rain long since erased the inscriptions they once bore.

As I started back up the lane toward the castle two children on bicycles came flying down the hill. First a girl, prim and pig-tailed, and then a boy, smoothing his hair with one hand and pedaling fast.

It was fully light now. The gray light of another day in the South of England. Now I could see the downs stretching away on either side of the lane, green and lush and park-like. I could see the grazing cows and the darting crows and the farmer already plowing, the rich black loam unfolding behind him. I could see all of this, just as it has been for centuries.

I know we at this conference will talk again about the Bomb. I know the intellectual challenge of all its corollary problems will again stimulate us. I know that those who talk are intelligent, highly informed people.

Yet I have never felt as strongly that when we talk about the Bomb, we don't know what the hell we're talking about.

Morning Report:

Thanks but no thanks. And with that, Senator Goldwater declined the kind offer of Governor Rockefeller. After all, why should Barry debate on TV with Rocky? The Senator already has the votes for the GOP convention.

But nothing is that simple in politics. Barry pointed out that after all, Rockefeller had refused to debate Robert M. Morgenthau in the New York Governor's race. So that means that in '64, President Kennedy will refuse to debate Senator Goldwater because he refused to debate Rockefeller who had refused to debate Morgenthau.

That's television show business for you. A program gets canceled before it even gets scheduled.

Abe Mellinkoff