

Torrance Herald

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Brand Me Tender



Those Little Errors

If you have felt any concern over the steady increase in centralization of power in the federal government, forget it. We're just compensating for some mistakes the founding fathers made in drawing up the Constitution.

At least that is the import of views expounded by Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman. In a pamphlet issued by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Mr. Freeman blames the Constitutional division of powers for any breakdowns we may have in government at various levels. He declares that only federal intervention can save us.

It would be foolish to deny that as our society grows in size and complexity the areas in which federal government must properly operate will inevitably increase. It seems equally foolish, however, to abandon the more localized branches of government just because they sometimes are not expertly operated. Yet such abandonment is what Secretary Freeman and others who espouse strongly centralized control are advocating. The Founding Fathers goofed, is the point.

What the Founding Fathers actually did, of course, was to build into the Constitution a protection against tyranny. Mr. Freeman and his cohorts would have us believe that a little tyranny, like a little inflation, is a salutary thing; and that a little tyranny won't necessarily grow into a big one. Want to bet?

The Song of Spring

Now that most of us have our federal and state income taxes paid we can, figuratively speaking, go to work for ourselves.

It is the immutable privilege of the average American taxpayer to work from Jan. 1 until about Feb. 15 to earn enough to cover the federal government's share; perhaps another week or so for the state; and about another month for sales and other bites.

Those, of course, are just the direct, visible taxes. Other good-size hunks of our money go to various governmental coffers through payments by businesses we patronize.

No wonder that at this time of year the weary taxpayers are crooning that mournful tune, "Deep in the Heart of Texas."

Sudden Thought

If the old Revolution War slogan "No taxation without Representation" is, in fact, true of modern day America, then this nation has developed the most representative forms of government in history.

LETTERS From Our Readers

Editor, Torrance Herald

I was shocked to read in the newspaper about the California Teachers Association's apparent unilateral stand regarding the financial proposal it will submit to the people—a patchwork program at best.

The Torrance Board of Education has been dissuaded, for the past four months, by legislative timing and confusion, by the CTA, and other organizations from initiating a movement for a school support measure. As President of the Torrance Board of Education, I am voicing my objection, not because the school initiative has been launched, but because of the patchwork type measure that it is, and the fact that realistically it is building, in the future, costly school support initiatives.

Local school boards have "NO VESTED INTEREST"—we desire only quality education for a reasonable tax dollar.

Studies of financing California schools made by independent organizations, such as, Stanford Research Institute, and others have consistently demonstrated the inequity to schools and property owners of existing school

support financing. The Stanford study recommends that a new school financing system be inaugurated. As a result of many studies into a state system of school support, the Torrance Board of Education passed resolutions encompassing two main points:

- (1) that the State should finance a minimum of 50 per cent of the operating costs of existing school programs, and
- (2) that the State should finance any mandatory programs it inflicts upon local school districts.

The LOCAL HOMEOWNER and property taxpayer is burdened now to the breaking point.

The 50-50 school support level between state and local district is a fairly well accepted principle designed to insure quality educational programs; in the Torrance district, the state support has deteriorated to 38 per cent. If the initiative, which should be couched in terms of principles rather than specifics, called for a 50-50 state/local ratio for school support were passed, the people would be insured of adequate school support FOREVER, with local control. This would force the State Legislators to perform their required duty.

Through your newspaper, which time and time again has demonstrated its belief in the value of good education locally controlled, the public should be made aware of the ramifications of the proposed patchwork system of financing schools proposed by the CTA-sponsored initiative, which, no doubt, would soon be obsolete. A war chest of \$600,000 is planned to promote this patchwork legislation.

I hope you can spread the word and arouse a ground swell to influence the drawing up of a proper school support measure based upon principles which will last and insure good education for the people of California.

BERT M. LYNN,
President
Torrance Unified
School District

HERE AND THERE by Royce Brier

Dickens Thought America Was Home of the Vulgar

When Charles Dickens, a testy fellow indeed, visited the United States in 1842, he didn't like it. In American Notes he said the Americans were vulgar and disorderly.

This shocked and enraged those genteel Americans who had laughed with Mr. Pickwick and wept for Little Nell. But it was no news to the English, who had known all their lives that General Washington was a gentleman, but the breed had died with him.

Dickens' views of Americans has never quite been dispelled. Hardly a decade after him came our own Wild West to confirm it. So in our century came the movies to prove how bad it really was. There was this dance hall, full of varmint and floozies. Badmen shot up the streets outside, barged into the hall, dolls screamed, tables flew and whiskey bottles smashed.

Only lately there was new proof, when the Westerns

were exported for English television. Now, the English have their Teddys, but they are comparatively a jolly mob, nothing like that mumbly Brando in The Wild One taking over a town.

Well — bit of a show! — times change.

There is a hamlet called Clacton-by-Sea. A resort frequented by little old ladies with canes, and aging majors from the Old War—you should have been at the Somme, and one day there was Sir Douglas, slogging along in the mud big as life!

One recent weekend 100 teen-agers on scooters busted into a seafood restaurant, demanding breakfast. They were asked to leave, as the saying goes, and vulgarly broke up the joint. Outside there were constables with police dogs, and they collared a score of the hoods. When they should appear but hundreds of leather-jacket boys in motorcycles.

They brought their "birds" (girls) riding behind. They didn't like the scooter lads, who dress fancy, and pitched into them, and vice versa.

So there was a running fight, about 500 on a side. The birds and towngirls screamed for their sides and at the constables. This went on for three days. The constables would shoo a cluster out of town, and a new mob would zoom in. Scores of hoodlums and townfolk were hospital cases. Finally about 100 made the bucket, or gaol, for everything from drunk to larceny and assault. London reporters arriving said the village was full of broken bottles, smashed windows, dented cars and overturned tables in public places.

Oh, well, Mr. Dickens didn't witness it. And alas, we have no writer of his caliber to produce something called English Notes. It's just as well.

Out of the Past

From the Pages of the HERALD

40 Years Ago

A group of Torrance residents met with representatives of the county and were asked to submit recommendations for Harbor area improvements, according to The HERALD for April 25, 1924. The group answered in one loud cry, "Pave Carson Street to Long Beach Boulevard."

The oil boom finally became a fact and not something which everyone believed couldn't last, and the major oil companies began intensive work to drill and get the black gold from the ground. The oil companies planned 63 new wells in a seven-mile field stretching from Redondo Boulevard to Wilmington.

The Torrance Women's Club reported plans for the new clubhouse were complete. The group planned to finance part of the building by incorporating and selling stock in the corporation. The club also reported a 5 per cent increase in membership.

30 Years Ago

The city announced the appointments to a newly-created Civil Service Commission, according to The HERALD for April 26, 1934. Among the persons named to serve on the board were George Probert, now the owner of Torrance Pharmacy.

Residents of Hollywood Riviera and Waverly were happy to discover they would have adequate fire protection with the addition of a new truck to the city's fire department.

The new pumper was to be stationed in Waverly "under a qualified fireman."

On the crime scene, seven pairs of socks and several shirts were taken from a backyard clothesline, and in Lomita, a man was arrested for beating a dog. The Lomita man asked for a jury trial.

20 Years Ago

Initial news that several new public buildings, including a library in Waverly, a new central fire station, and a swimming pool were announced in The HERALD for April 27, 1944. The projects were suggested as possible PWA projects, with federal money paying most of the bills.

In sports, the Torrance High tracksters defeated San Pedro in a dual meet. The horseholders were getting ready for opening day, with their first game slated against Gardena.

A special supplement to The HERALD proclaimed Torrance the "Synthetic Rubber Capital of the West." The Dow Chemical Plant in Torrance was reported producing more than 90,000 tons of synthetic rubber annually, most of it going for military use in the war. Four plants—Dow, Shell, Goodyear, and United States Rubber—were operating in Torrance.

10 Years Ago

Two brand new elementary schools were dedicated in Torrance, according to The HERALD for April 29, 1954.

The schools were named for early board members, Mrs. Evelyn Carr and Dr. Howard A. Wood. Dr. Wood served as the first president of the Board of Education, while Mrs. Carr, who later earned her teaching certificate and is now teaching in Torrance, was a member of the first board.

In a side note, school enrollment in Torrance was reported to have increased 2,000 over the year, reaching 9,792.

On the sports page, the Tartar track team garnered a second place trophy at the annual Inglewood Relays by dominating field events. But the first place standings have not changed much, for the Santa Monica team picked up first place—just as they did two weeks ago at the 25th anniversary running of the relays.

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BOOKS by William Hogan

Complex Science Fields Subjected to Fresh Look

The Rockefeller Institute is attempting to bridge the "two cultures," as Sir Charles P. Snow labels the widening split between modern science and the humanities. The Institute is seeking to introduce writers of established merit to complex scientific fields so they may interpret these wonders freshly and clearly for the intelligent layman.

There is no reason why scientific fact, no matter how specialized, cannot be expressed eloquently and with imagination. But scientists are rarely writers of Rachel Carson stature. They are almost never H. D. Thoreau, who once observed: "Man can not afford to be a naturalist, to look at Nature directly, but only with the side of his eye. He must look through and beyond her."

Involved in the Rockefeller Institute writing program is Dr. Loren C. Eiseley, the anthropologist and author of such books as "The Immense Journey," "The Firmament of Time" and "Darwin's Century." The Institute could not find a more articulate counselor. As an anthropologist, Eiseley is equipped with the restless eye of the scientist. As a writer, he expresses scientific truths in casual essays of almost Biblical simplicity.

Chairman of the University of Pennsylvania's Department of History and Philosophy of

Cuff Notes

Although Americans spend more than \$2.4 billion annually on dentist bills, the entire country is not footing the bill—about one-third of the population never darkens the door of a dentist's office.

Americans are patriotic when it comes to cheese, choosing American cheese above all others, to the tune of three-fourths of total U. S. cheese consumption.

Beer is a universal all time favorite — last year beer drinkers throughout the world downed a record 9.3 billion gallons; thirstiest were the Belgians, with an average of 27 gallons per person; Americans were ninth with 12.6 gallons per person.

Rubies and sapphires are basically the same stone; corundum, second only to the diamond in hardness.

Quote

"I am disappointed, but still hoping that all nations which have received assistance from us will show appreciation through appropriately generous contributions to Alaskan quake sufferers." —Douglas B. Perry, Van Nuys.

"Psychiatry's aim is to give back people's independence, to help them face their problems, but not to solve them." —Dr. Robert Caham, S.F. psychiatric aid center director.

Strength for These Days (From The Bible)

He dedicated for us, a new and living way.

—(Heb. 10:20). The story of Jesus will never be completely told until the heart of every man fulfills His commandments, and every man adapts his own behavior to Christ's loving perfection, and walks a living way.

SOLUTION

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Science, Eiseley was here the other day to address a convention of educators. He explained there is no basic scientific objection to expressing scientific data clearly. It is simply that in most cases scientists are not writers. Some specialists do object to his informal approach to large ideas — anthropology, archaeology, geology, chemistry — as in "The Immense Journey." That is a book devoted to man and his search for understanding of the world he inhabits. It is probably the most profound, as well as popular, collection of scientific views of our time.

A partisan of the personal essay, Eiseley feels that a trained and interested writer can "translate" the jargon of science into the language of the layman or even into literature. The late James Thurber might have made an excellent science writer if he had put his mind to it. W. H. Hudson, the English naturalist, used the novel to express scientific ideas, and Joseph Conrad observed of him: "Hudson writes like the grass grows."

Eiseley and the Rockefeller people may not bring forth another Hudson, Thoreau or another Eiseley. But they feel that science need not remain a lost world to the non-scientist and are doing something about it.

Of "The Immense Journey," Joseph Wood Krutch wrote: "It is often said today that what we need are more facts. Actually we already have more facts than we know how to interpret or how to use wisely. What we need most is the wisdom which facts ought to generate but often, unfortunately, do not."

OUR MAN by Arthur Hoppe

GOP Candidate Finally Picked

The moment is precisely ripe! The mood is perfect! And thus it is with high hopes in our hearts today that we unveil the one candidate who can sweep the Republican convention off its feet and unite all factions in rekindled zeal:

Nobody.

The decision to launch a Nobody for President campaign came only after exhaustive study of the latest polls. Which now show conclusively that the majority of party leaders prefer Mr. Lodge; the majority of Rockefellerers prefer Mr. Rockefeller; and the majority believes the nomination will go, therefore, to Mr. Nixon.

Now that smacks of defeatism on all sides. It's clear that what the Grand Old Party's obviously searching for in its hour of crisis is a real Nobody. Moreover, not only will Nobody meet this need, but even the experts agree that at the moment, Nobody looks like a sure winner. Thus if this trend continues, there's every reason to believe the Convention will unanimously nominate Nobody for President.

Let us, then, take a searching look at this ideal standard bearer. He is, above all else, a real Nobody. While faceless, his appearance is universally inoffensive. And he hasn't an enemy in the world, being absolutely unheard of.

Nobody's past, needless to say, is an open book. And dubious voters are invited at any time to inspect its pages. Which are, in keeping with his unblemished record, blank.

These qualifications have drawn wide-spread admiration. Many astute GOP politicians, after assessing the race, have leapt fearlessly aboard Nobody's bandwagon. Indeed, Mr. Eisenhower himself, while expressing respect for all the candidates, has made it clear time and again that he is actively supporting Nobody.

Nobody has, of course, taken an unqualified stand on the issues. His positions are set forth in an attractive brochure, entitled: "What Nobody Can Do for You." They include wiping out the Federal debt, abolishing taxes while quadrupling Government services, and decrying pie-in-the-sky proposals. But the campaign promise which will appeal most to any experienced voter is, simply: "Nobody Will Keep His Campaign Promises!"

Once nominated, Nobody will wage a brilliant campaign. First of all, he has a solid base of support. For more than one-third of our adult citizens automatically and unthinkingly vote for Nobody in every Presidential election. Secondly, the polls show a large number of "undecideds," who are, of course, committed to Nobody. With just a little effort, we should be able to install Nobody in the White House. Which will save a fortune in the light bill right there.

So sign up in the Nobody for President campaign today. Join the millions of Republicans who are ringing doorbells, typing envelopes and giving generously of their time and money for Nobody. The polls show enthusiasm for Nobody is reaching fever pitch. He fits the mood of the party.

And if you don't believe it, just ask any practical Republican politician in private these days which GOP hopefuls can lick Mr. Johnson in November.

Yes sir, he'll name our candidate every time.

Morning Report:

The President of the United States is the fastest quick-change artist ever. Commander in Chief, national ward healer, big-money banker, ad hoc sociologist, international diplomat and labor negotiator—all in the same day.

In at least postponing the railroad strike Mr. Johnson used his favorite quote from his Bible: "Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord."

And that's also what Mr. Johnson has been saying ever since he moved into the White House. And also before. Only in the Senate cloakrooms it was called arm-twisting. Reasoning sounds better coming from the President's office.

Abe Mellinkoff

Pipeline of Life



PLEDGE YOUR PINT TODAY!