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A New Community Force

With today's issued of the Press-Herald, the Torrance Herald which published its first edition on Jan. 1, 1914, and the Torrance Press, a vigorous community force since 1949, are combined into one newspaper with the pledge to give Torrance even greater service and help in the years and decades which lie ahead.

During its 50-year history which ended as such with Sunday's edition, The Torrance Herald has fought and won many battles. It was in the forefront of the battle to incorporate Torrance as a city in 1921. It led the fight—sometimes against formidable odds—to put Torrance among the 13 original cities which made up the Metropolitan Water District and brought water to the Southland from the Colorado River.

The Torrance Herald fought for and was instrumental in the formation of the Torrance Unified School District. During the many years of its existence, the Torrance Herald has been an aggressive champion for many projects for the city's betterment and today is joined in the battle for a better community in which to live and work by the Torrance Press, bringing to bear on the community's needs a potent force for good.

If the dynamic Torrance area is to be properly served, the joining of the two newspapers was an inevitable move. The union of the two publishing firms has been dictated by those who have Torrance interests at heart.

The Press-Herald regards its responsibilities to the community as a trust. There are many battles yet to be fought, many campaigns yet to come, and the Press-Herald is pledged to add its forces to the side of community betterment.

Who's Crazy Now?

California has been accused of having crazy elections. But consider this:

In Illinois next November the voters will face the task of electing 177 members of its state House of Representatives, the equivalent of California's Assembly. Not so difficult, of course, when one merely has to choose a candidate in his own district; but in Illinois this year all candidates are running at large! Since each of the two major parties is allowed to place 118 candidates on the ballot, there will be at least 236 names for each voter to ponder.

The reason for this situation is that the Illinois constitution requires decennial reapportionment, and the teeth of the law are embodied in the clause which says if first the legislature and then a special governor's commission fail to come up with such a plan within a specified time all members of the House must run at large in the next election. Party politicking stymied both the legislative and commission efforts, so each Illinois voter now faces the monumental task of designating his choices for an entire legislature.

Obviously, straight ticket voting will be the order of the day. And those X's may well mark the spot on which a lot of procrastinating Illinois politickers find themselves next fall.

NEWS SPARKS by James Dorais

Teachers Enlist For School Aid

Beyond question, the most significant accomplishment of the 1964 session of the State Legislature was passage of the big money school bill, bearing the name of Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh.

Also beyond question is the fact that the bill, in its final form, would never have been passed had not the powerful California Teachers Association decided to take the case for increased financial support for local school districts to the people, via the initiative process.

In less than a month's time, the school teachers secured more than a million signatures—more than twice the required number—to a petition to place on the ballot a proposal providing increased state appropriations of \$140 million in 1965/66 and an additional \$60 million the following year.

As finally hammered out by a conference committee of Senators and Assemblymen, and approved by both houses, the Unruh bill provides \$50 million in 1964/65, and up to \$120 million in 1965/66. The largest school finance bill ever enacted by the State Legislature, it also contains provisions declaring it is the intent of the Legislature to provide additional state support in the future.

Immediately following the Unruh bill's enactment, the Teachers Association, in a statewide meeting of its governing council, voted not to place its initiative on the ballot. His decision was ap-

plauded by many legislators who had been critical of CTA's direct approach to the people. Several legislators, including Speaker Unruh, were quick to acknowledge that circulation of the CTA's petitions had been largely instrumental in the bill's passage in its final form.

Thus, a major controversy was in the main happily resolved: there will be a substantial increase in state support for children in most of the state's school districts, the pressure on local property taxpayers will be relieved, and the breach between the Legislature and the Teachers Association has been considerably healed.

Left uncomfortably out in left field is the small, rival teachers union, which had been willing, in the hope of currying political favor, to settle for a great deal less money than finally appropriated.

Problems remain, however. The largest school system in the state, Los Angeles, will receive very little additional money from the Unruh bill, and San Francisco schools will receive none at all.

The bill's provisions for reducing class sizes—a reform favored by CTA—will cost considerable money, thus offsetting the increased state aid in many districts.

And the bill's extremely complicated provisions dealing with formulas to reduce class sizes and encourage district consolidations will entail a mountain of new paper work, adding inevitably to administrative costs.

You Scare Him, Barry



HERE AND THERE by Royce Brier

Crises, Like Amoeba, Multiply by Dividing

Recently Defense Secretary McNamara and Secretary of State Rusk and others met in Hawaii to explore the southeast Asia crisis, and Laos cooled down while they talked, and everybody felt less tense.

It is only lately we have divided our crisis between South Vietnam and Laos, and it's like reproduction in the amoeba, because the original crisis retains its potency. Our acknowledged trouble now is that the Viet Cong guerrillas use the Laotian jungle to enter South Vietnam, Laos, which is neutral by a 14-nation accord at Geneva last year, has its own Communist rebels called the Pathet Leo. So we have been flying unarmed reconnaissance planes over Laos with the consent of Premier Souvanna Phouma, and have lost a couple to Pathet Leo fire. But when we flew a fighter escort, the Premier stalled.

That's how it is over the dense rain forests of Laos at the moment, but you can expect change. Indeed, the Red Chinese have branded the Laotian situation "most dangerous."

Last month Poland suggested a six-nation preliminary conference on Laos, excluding the United States and Red China. Britain and the Soviet Union agreed to it, but the Red Chinese rejected it, saying it needed a 14-nation plenary conference of the original signatories. Recently in Geneva, the writer bumbled into the press section of a second-string session on Laos, but was invited to leave, as it was a "private meeting."

The Peking statement said: "Laos is a close neighbor of China. The Chinese government cannot but be gravely concerned over the present situation in Laos." But the statement said Red China has made no military commitment to the Pathet Leo or Viet Cong.

While some American politicians and some Pentagon elements want more decisive action in the theater, the Administration gives no signs of heeding rash advice. A Red Chinese intervention in Laos and South Vietnam would present no formidable military problem. The Indochina frontier is less than 500 miles from Canton, and while the country is rough, the Chinese are likely to have several trained divisions in Kwangsi province.

Out Vietnamese trainees could hardly resist a force of 50,000 Red Chinese thrusting south through Vietnam, and possibly using the Laotian jungle trails. We ourselves could not resist a considerable Chinese force without employing nuclear weapons and, despite the advice of a few politicians, the American people are not going to stand for it. You perceive we remain on dead center down there.

BOOKS by William Hogan

Report on 19th Century London Still Sizzling

A century ago the New York World sent a fearless spectator named Joseph Kirwan to report on both the high and low life in London. He observed with relish the manners, morals, social customs and modes of living in Victoria's capital. It was still the city Dickens described so vividly. There was a Dickensian flavor to Kirwan's dispatches, some of which were collected as a book in 1870.

This long-forgotten exercise has been dusted off by the London-New York firm of Abelard-Schuman as "Palace and Hovel; or Phases of London Life." Enhanced by original woodcut illustrations, it is a rare and often boisterous little curiosity piece.

As an Irish-American, Kirwan was not particularly fond of Victoria and her ruling government. He viewed the Queen as a slightly ridiculous, usually tipsy widow who lobbed empty gin bottles under her bed. He suggested that she was infatuated with her late husband's manservant, one John Brown, whose job ostensibly was to push the widow in a perambulator around the gardens of her Scottish lodge at Balmoral. A strong element of gossip yellowed Kirwan's journalism, but his opinions were fierce and prose more than agreeable.

The future Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, seemed to Kirwan like "a beer-drinking bagman or commercial peddler, a very sorry scamp" whose associates were chiefly "the worst and most abandoned rogues of the Clubs, the lowest turf blackguards and swindlers."

The American reporter was particularly vivid in describing London's lower depths. He visited cheap lodging houses; observed wretches in prison vans at Old Bailey; he described body-snatchers and cargers at London Bridge, sewer-hunters, an execution at Newgate. And as for what he termed the "abandoned women" of Haymarket, well...

The estimate of vice and sin during this peak of Victoria's reign was astonishing to our observer, who nevertheless, recorded it 'con brio.' It was enough, indeed, to "intimidate and terrify the Christian people of England." Haymarket was "the republic of vice" where "the dissolute and idle pour into this market of sin, this Exchange of Vice and Harlotry, like moths attracted by the glare that must sooner or later destroy them." This street, Kirwan informed his readers piously but in unrelenting detail, "is always at night full of cabs, drunken

men, noisy women, jugglers and thieves."

Our man also covered the Great University Boat Race between Oxford and Harvard in August, 1869. But this was pretty tame stuff after wandering the streets of Dickens, and among the aggregates of some 80,000 unfortunate women.

Hardly a major work, "Palace and Hovel" is an occasionally hair-raising, always searching series of vignettes. Maybe much of it was an accurate portrait of 19th Century London. Certainly it is fun to read today.

Opinions of Others

A case can be made for spending billions to make work, if the cost were shifted from relief to public works. But there would still be many who could not qualify even for man-made work, and the cost would be largely a new and additional drain on top of relief expenditures. The need is not for a new public works program, but for educating and training. Public works is not a cure for unemployment. The jobs end with the works, they leave no one trained for permanent jobs, and no permanent jobs are created to which he can return. There is no substitute for new products, new markets, and new and expanded industries to cut unemployment.—Santa Paula (Calif.) Chronicle.

"The art of taxation," wrote Jean Baptiste Colbert, finance minister to France's King XIV some 200 years ago, "consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the amount of hissing." —Toledo (Iowa) Chronicle.

AFTER HOURS by John Morley

World Communism Faces Real Trouble On Split

It's becoming more and more apparent that the administration is so preoccupied with politics it fails to recognize the golden opportunity being presented by the widening split in world communism.

It was also apparent on our recent news trip around the world that Red China is conspiring incidents to draw Russia and the U.S. closer to war... while Russia aggravates and encourages incidents, especially in South-east Asia, to draw Red China and the U.S. into war.

This over-preoccupation with the presidential elections is not only dangerous to the security of the nation... but ignores the opportunity to capitalize on the Russia-Red China rift.

Instead, the nation is told to get softer on communism... that increased cultural relations with Russia are in order... that more Soviet consulates in the U.S. would be helpful, while the Soviet Union continues to sabotage us in Berlin and Cuba and refuses to participate in any enforcement of the neutrality of Laos which they agreed upon at Geneva.

The entire Communist movement is on the verge of a serious blow in the coming World Communist Conference, to be held on the eve of the U.S. elections next fall.

The monolithic image of world communism will undoubtedly be broken by the Red Chinese delegation, when joined by at least 20 presently pro-Chinese communist delegations voting at the parley.

The World Communist Conference is scheduled to bring together Communist parties representing 85 nations of the world.

About 20 of these are strongly opposed to Soviet Communist policy... and are aligned with Red China. While 65 appear to remain in the Soviet-bloc, the loss of even 20 is a real blow to the prestige of the Kremlin and particularly to Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

Such prominent Communists at Italy's Palermo Togliatti, North Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh, must take sides. This would force the hand of less prominent red leaders... and with them will go thousands of their followers.

At present most Communist parties have been playing both sides, unwilling to

commit themselves for fear of betting on the wrong horse.

Even with 85 red delegations loyal to Moscow, like the U.S., England, France, Israel, Greece, Australia, etc., will be split from within, the ranks of their membership and must choose between Russia or Red China policies.

Regardless of the numerical outcome of support, Russia will lose in this confrontation with Red China. For it will remove the aura of Communist authority from the star on top of the Kremlin.

A serious ideological split at the top level could adversely influence diplomatic and trade relations between Communist nations. It would weaken joint military effort. It could reduce financial aid and support to over-all Communist plans within and outside red countries. It could affect the financing of subversion and revolts conspired in places like Cuba.

It is also possible that a major military showdown could develop between the two red giants and their

supporters.

It appears prudent for the U.S. to help widen the gap in this Communist split by doing nothing to assist either side... and by maintaining the pressure on both.

To ease up now is to help solidify victory of one faction or the other. Such a victory would necessarily call for a reorganization of the defeated factions and the replacement with proponents of the victorious side. This will bring us back where we started, into another monolithic Communist power.

Our present softer policy toward Russia is as unwise as it is dangerous. We have spent over \$100 billion abroad, mostly to fight the encroachment and subversion of communism... and to weaken its monolithic world-wide power.

Now that this weakness is becoming more and more apparent, it's not the time to give the shaky patient smelling salts. It's time to let him fall and keep him under sedation.

OUR MAN by Arthur Hoppe

Bull Moosers, Whigs! Arise!

Arise Bull Moosers! Forward, you Know Nothing, Up the Whigs! Excuse my enthusiasm this morning, but it looks like a great year for a Third Party. Just about everybody is threatening to bolt the one they've got.

The trouble, of course, is the party platforms. Nothing, as you know, is more important than a platform. It must be a living document which sets forth the inalienable principles for which the party stands. And whenever either party tries to set forth the inalienable principles for which it stands naturally loses half its membership.

If the Democrats hew out a strong plank on civil rights, the Southerners will advise the Northerners to go walk it. If the liberal Republicans force through a liberal platform, the Right Wing will bolt in a huff. If vice versa, the liberals will bolt in their huffs.

And with everybody bolting in huffs, the question arises: Where's everybody going to bolt to? Thus it is with quiet pride and glowing confidence that we announce the formation of a third force in American politics: The Likely Party.

The Likely Party will meet in Disarray, Pa., to nominate a Likely candidate as soon as everybody else has bolted in huffs over their parties' platforms. To nip any such bolts in the bud, the Likely Party has drawn up its platform in advance so that the whole nation may know the inalienable principles for which it stands. It wasn't easy.

Take the bitter fight in the platform committee over equal rights. After a running gun battle it was at last agreed to adopt an irrevocable stand in favor of equal rights. The clause reads: "All rights are equal, including civil rights, property rights, human rights, State's rights, and Scottish rights."

On the grave issue of war and peace, the platform speaks out forthrightly: "We believe in building a stronger America with bigger bombs and better bacteriological weaponry so that we may defend our Christian heritage of non-violence and turning the other cheek."

Rioting over our economic plank left seven dead. But the in end all survivors agreed: "While preserving individual initiative, we must insure a higher standard of living for all through increased Government concern for the poor by reducing taxes."

The slogan, then, of The Likely Party is: "Anything Goes." And students of inalienable principles will, I'm sure, agree: "That's a Likely Platform!" No matter which party you belong to.

But having just emerged from the bloody battle over our terribly crucial platform, we sympathize with the Republicans and Democrats. It makes you realize why, after having gone through this bloody battle each four years, no politician in his right mind ever mentions the terribly crucial platform of his party again.

Morning Report:

The last time I saw one of those delegate "box scores" Barry Goldwater had 683 votes. That's 28 more than needed to win, and so the old ball game is over? Not on your life. It's just beginning.

Because now the experts say we have to start counting "hard" Goldwater votes and "soft" Goldwater votes. But nobody knows how to tell one from the other. Do you weigh them? Poke at 'em with a Republican principle? Rub a platform over 'em? Invite them to a Scranton dinner Or just guess?

On the other hand, it just may be that box scores are great for baseball and somehow don't fit the great game of politics at all.

Abe Mellinkoff