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Breaking Up The Old Act



The Busiest Man

Among the busiest men in town these days is Walter R. Koenig, who has hardly had time to get his chair warm in the chief's office at the Torrance Police Department since he reported there for duty Monday morning.

And, if Chief Koenig is going to be the take-charge guy everyone hoped for when his selection was announced by City Manager Edward J. Ferraro recently, it may be a few days before he really is settled into the chair behind his desk.

Chief Koenig comes to Torrance to head up and strengthen an already strong police department. He will find — has found, we're sure — that he is blessed with a large force of dedicated, educated, and trained officers.

We welcome Chief Koenig to Torrance, and selfishly wish him every success in his new assignment, and pledge the support of the Press-Herald to the chief and others whose goal is to make this a better community.

Parent Delinquency

A short time ago some 75 students skipped going to school in a Chicago suburb in order to observe what it is known as "senior ditch day." This was a direct violation of school rules. But, worse by far, was the attitude taken by a number of the parents who falsely stated their children were ill on that day or involved in some urgent family business.

The known "ditch day" participants were suspended for three days.

The Superintendent then wrote to the board of education and said "If the attitudes shown by some of both parents and pupils in relation to this ditch day has significance as to the moral outlook and fiber of leaders of our present and future generations . . . I am profoundly concerned and quite pessimistic about the future effectiveness of this or any school in teaching the values of personal pride, honor, integrity, sportsmanship and responsible citizenship."

Well said The parents who lied set an example for their children that directly and inevitably encourages juvenile delinquency. It is a short step from skipping school to serious crime.

Symbol of Freedom

Do you wear glasses?

Remember the first time you put them on you were definitely conscious of the frames? You could see them but as you became accustomed to the gadget you gradually came to the place where you didn't see the frames at all.

If you never have worn glasses, borrow a pair and put them on your nose and see if you are not immediately conscious of the frames.)

Americans who have been born and brought up in this country become so familiar with this way of life that some things become like glasses, frames—we are so used to them, we just don't see them, or really appreciate them.

It is a good idea occasionally, for the sake of our personal and national sense of direction, to reserve a time for taking stock.

On the 4th renew the custom of showing the colors and recall the ideals for which they stand.

Whether snapping in a stiff breeze or hanging in dignified repose, it is impossible to look at the stars and stripes without seeing reflected in them both the glorious past, and the future which can belong to the great country they represent.

This symbol of our nation's freedom reflects a strength which has no meaning unless its use follows the will of a people with pride and integrity of purpose.

Responsible individuals with the freedom to think, create and move to meet fast changing circumstances built the United States.

A free society capable of spawning and encouraging such citizens will have the versatile strength to steer a meaningful course in this fast shifting world.

The American flag has always flown above such a land—let's keep it so.

Opinions of Others

For the first time in 164 years, Washington, D. C., residents will vote for a President and Vice President in November. The last time that happened was in 1800. Adoption of the 23rd Amendment in 1961 gave Washingtonians the right to cast ballots for their national leaders. However, they still do not elect local officials to govern District of Columbia affairs.

—Cuero (Tex.) Record.

Know about artificial respiration and how to apply it. The mouth-to-mouth method is explained in the First Aid Manual of the American Medical Association. It is not difficult. Start immediately, the victim can survive without oxygen to the brain for only a few minutes.

—Georgetown (Ohio) News-Democrat.

They found 40 microphones in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. We knew that our statesmen talked a lot but we didn't know that they needed that extensive an electronic network to pick up all the loose talk. Wonder if they caught any sweet talk between the secretaries and their bosses? Probably not. No American abroad would do anything naughty, would he?

—Random Lake, (Wisc.) Times.

NEWS SPARKS by James Dorais

Did Politics Have Part in Telephone Decision?

The widely publicized decision of the California Public Utilities Commission sharply cutting permissible earnings of the Pacific Telephone Company and ordering an unprecedented retroactive refund to the company's subscribers has inevitably raised the intriguing question of what part, if any, political considerations played in the decision.

In his dissent from the majority decision, Commissioner Peter E. Mitchell commented:

"A decision of the California Public Utilities Commission which reduces the rates of a utility is always popular with the customers. A decision of the California Public Utilities Commission which requires a utility to refund millions of dollars to customers is even more popular. Put them together, as this decision does, a rate reduction and a refund, and huzzas will and should explode from all customers."

But where are the huzzas?

Rarely has a Commission decision proved such universal, and immediate, unfavorable response.

Typical of newspaper edi-

torial comment throughout the state was the reaction of the liberal Sacramento Bee: "For the commission to have the power to order a utility to make refunds on rates it previously had said were reasonable would be unfair and could make a shambles out of utility regulation in the state."

From the conservative Los Angeles Times: "The ruling seems to violate accepted principles of equity, and could have an adverse effect on the state's economy."

And from the San Francisco Chronicle, which has fought the phone company long and hard on digit-dialing: "The order of the State Public Utilities Commission taking \$80 million away from the Pacific Telephone Company and depressing its earnings by cutting back its rates is an incredible piece of regulatory injustice."

About the only good word for the Commission's decision came from Governor Brown, who said: "I hope the people of the state will realize that there is a great and that this is like a re-connection between rates, and that this is like a re-

duction in taxes, because everybody has to pay—everybody in California has to have a telephone today, and that this is really more money in their pockets, and has the same effect as a reduction in taxes."

A year and a half earlier, the Governor had stated: "We must keep the business climate of the state healthy. It must be a climate in which our citizens get good service at a reasonable cost. And it must be a climate in which business can prosper."

Public reaction to the Commission's decision would indicate that if the decision was made for political purposes, it badly backfired. The reaction would indicate, too, that people are more sophisticated than politicians often give them credit for being.

The average householder doubtless would welcome a \$10 refund on his phone bill, or any other bill, but not at the expense of a potential slowdown of business expansion, loss of jobs, and depression of the kind of business climate needed, in the Governor's words, to keep "the state healthy."

BOOKS by William Hogan

U.S. Intelligence Gets An Informed Once-Over

A storm has been raised by the appearance of "The Invisible Government," a startling book by the Washington newsmen David Wise and Thomas B. Ross. A full, authentic account of this country's intelligence and espionage apparatus, it has stirred charges of "breach of security" and "disclosure of top secrets" in some areas of the intelligence establishment.

As hard-working reporters, Wise and Ross have merely amassed an intriguing amount of data on this loose, amorphous grouping of individuals and agencies (some 200,000 employees, no less). The Central Intelligence Agency is the heart of its power structure, and the CIA comes in for the strongest criticism in this report.

Wise and Ross feel that as long as we spend nearly \$4 billion a year on this cloak-and-dagger business, we ought to know something about what we are buying. The book suggests that, in some cases, we are buying a pig-in-the-poke, duplication, waste, inefficiency, a potentially dangerous super-government, inter-agency suspicion if not outright warfare, and such fiascos as the Bay of Pigs.

This is an important and disturbing book. It is much more revealing, and certainly more critical than Allen Dulles' recent, rather stuffy account of affairs clandestine, "The Craft of Intelligence." Beyond that, the Ross-Wise report is funny in an appalling, Jonathan Winters way—and this, perhaps, is what has caused the hullabaloo in the American espionage trade over the book's debut. Items:

The Peace Corps can't stand the CIA. Sargent Shriver assigned a general counsel to ride herd on the plans of intelligence specialists to infiltrate its ranks.

"Through the large picture window of his immaculate private dining room atop the CIA's \$46 million hideaway in Langley, Va., the director of CIA can watch deer and other wild life gambol in the woodland below." Trouble is, a spy with a powerful glass could, until the situation was corrected, look right in the window from an apartment house not far away.

Allen Dulles, former head of the CIA dedicated its Langley, Va., headquarters.

"The fact that the CIA could send out public invitations to lay the cornerstone of its hidden headquarters reflects a basic split personality that plagues the agency and occasionally makes it the butt of unkind jokes: This dichotomy pervades much of what the CIA does. On the one hand it is supersecret; on the other hand it is not."

"The Invisible Government" is a far more solid analysis of our intelligence machinery than these quotes might indicate. The book is a well-informed, free-swinging, endlessly fascinating document. It may make you mad—not that secrets are embarrassingly exposed (they are not); not that such expensive agencies may be necessary; but that they have become so monolithic and so often inept.

The Invisible Government. By David Wise and Thomas B. Ross. Random House; 361 pp.; \$5.95.

AFTER HOURS by John Morley

Republicans Eye Votes In Demos' Week Points

SAN FRANCISCO — The Republican National Convention opens here Monday on the 110th birthday of the Republican Party. Some 53 voters crowded into the "Little White School House" in Ripon, Wis., on March 10, 1854, to start the movement that led to the present Republican Party.

The word here is that "Big Government Waste," and "Vietnam and the Conduct of Foreign Policy" will be the key issues to be discussed by the major speakers.

Former President Eisenhower, former Vice President Nixon, Senator Thurston Morton of Kentucky, permanent chairman, will speak on Tuesday . . . with temporary chairman and keynote Governor Mark Hatfield of Oregon speaking on Monday.

For the first time in many conventions, former President Herbert Hoover, who will be 90 on Aug. 10, will not be present because of ill health.

Republican emphasis will be on the rising cost of living under the present Democratic administration, using the administration's new consumer price index as of March, 1964, which indicates a rise of seven cents over the Eisenhower administration. This is a new record of 107.7 per cent of average 1957-1959 prices.

At this writing, Henry Cabot Lodge is not listed as a speaker, although it is possible that he may be called upon to discuss Vietnam, if what he will say will strengthen the hand of the Republican cause.

If he persists in keeping the Vietnam War out of the coming political debate, his usefulness to the party and to the candidacy of Governor Scranton will be indeed diminished.

As expected, the Republicans will make capital out of the weak spots of the Johnson and Kennedy administrations, with partisan embellishments. The major issue . . . waste.

They are referring to President Johnson as "L (ight) B (ulb) Johnson." The Republicans claim that in the past three years of Democratic administration, poverty has increased dangerously in the U.S.

They state that in the 1960 campaign, President Kennedy claimed that five million Americans went to bed hungry. Now President Johnson declares that 35 million Americans are in poverty (Economic Report to Congress, Jan. 20, 1964).

Waste is emphasized in the recent disclosure involving Postmaster General Gronouski . . . who recently dispatched 163-word telegrams at a cost of \$10 each, all within Washington, to 25 members of the House post office and civil service committees, telling them how he was putting into practice Johnson's economy program.

Republican oratory will disclose the enormous increases in the federal budget between Eisenhower's—in 1959 and Johnson's in 1965, totaling some \$23 billion . . . with the interest on the national debt now reaching the astronomical figure of \$111 billions.

The Health, Education and Welfare Department had an increase of \$3.6 billion between 1962 and 1965, the Treasury Department—\$7.2 billion; Space Administration—\$4.1 billion.

Every spending authority in the U.S. received more money except Housing and Home Finance, which dropped \$200 million.

The overall increase is about 25 per cent, based on President Johnson's budget of \$103 billion for 1965 compared to President Eisenhower's 1959 budget of \$80 billion.

owns 86 per cent of the land in Nevada . . . 66 per cent in Utah . . . 64 per cent in Idaho . . . 52 per cent in Oregon . . . 48 per cent in Wyoming . . . 45 per cent in California, etc.

A recent survey of federal employees with salaries ranging from \$7,000 to \$20,000 a year increased by \$35,000 in fiscal 1963.

The U.S. Public Health Service recently planned 23 research projects. Investigation disclosed all 23 were already under way for some time in other federal agencies. In one case it found eight other agencies were engaged in the same project.

Democrats are accused of installing 5,000 "snooper-buttons" or eavesdropping telephone equipment in Washington.

A recent investigation shows that in March, 1964, 2,000 more persons were added to the payroll of four federal agencies. The Interior Department hired 710, the Space Agency, 500; the Tennessee Valley Authority, 422; and the General Services Administration, 415 employees to the federal payroll.

Conflict of interest will be an issue, from the Bobby Baker case to President Johnson. As Senator Johnson, he served on the Senate Commerce Committee which oversees the operations of the Federal Communications Commission regulating TV and radio. During this period the Johnson family invested \$17,000 in an Austin Texas radio station, now worth millions, the Republicans will charge.

OUR MAN by Arthur Hoppe

GOP Platform: Its' Lop Sided

The eyes of an anxious Nation this week are focused on the Republican platform. Will it be firm or flexible? Broad or narrow? None of the experts can agree. Thus I'm proud to report with absolute certainty that it will, indeed, be a firm platform with broad planks. As usual.

I'm able to bring you this exclusive because I actually watched the platform being hammered together. Hammering it together at the east end of the Cow Palace arena the other day were approximately a dozen carpenters in white overalls.

Would it, I asked, be a firm platform? "Like a rock," said one, removing a 16-penny nail from its mouth and driving it home. "You an inspector?"

Would it, I asked, have broad planks? "Two-by-twelves," he said. "Except at the end there where we had to shave one down to make it fit."

Well, I said philosophically, every platform has its compromises. "You want to see the blueprints?" he unrolled them so I could see precisely how the platform has been drafted. And it's been drafted precisely like, if you'll forgive the analogy, a lop-sided dumbell.

At the rear, there's a 30-foot square of platform, connected by a narrow walkway to 20-foot square up front on which the rostrum will sit. And, worse, there's no more than four feet of standing room behind the platform for those who wish to stand behind the platform. If it turns out anybody does.

Well, I said, at least I'd read somewhere that the planks had been chemically treated to make them less flammable. "Oh, no," he said, "that's the wood we're using in the TV platforms and the press rooms. This is just ordinary Douglas fir."

Douglas fir! A fine thing for the party of Lincoln. He said he didn't know about that and why didn't I go talk to the architect? Or somebody?

I couldn't find the architect of the Republican platform, but I did find Mr. Arthur Sauter of the Stuart-Sauter Co., the contractors in charge. Like most people responsible for hammering together a platform, he looked harried. But he kindly consented to a brief interview on the dead run.

Q — Was it true the platform hadn't been fire-proofed?

A — For heaven's sakes, don't talk about that.
Q — Will it be a red, white, and blue platform?
A — The treatment it's going to get hasn't been decided.

Q — But will it be a sturdy, enduring platform, designed to support all factions of the party?

A — It's solid enough to support darn near anything.

Q — And will it satisfy everybody?

A — We certainly hope so.
So there you have a clear picture at last of the 1964 GOP platform. And a perfect platform it is — firm, compromising, broad, inflammable, enduring, and lopsided; a platform anybody can run on and few will stand behind.

Of course, it's also just temporary. For as soon as the candidate's nominated, it will promptly be scrapped, never to be heard of again. As usual.

Morning Report:

It's a new game and anybody can play. But Mr. Johnson plays it best of all. The Game of Symbols.

Turn off the lights in the White House means an economical Administration. Everybody forgets a \$98.4 billion budget. Send Maxwell Taylor, our No. 1 general, to South Vietnam as an Ambassador. We want peace, but look out, generals mean fighting. Send Allen Dulles, our great master spy, to Mississippi. The President really wants to know what's going on, although 50 FBI agents could tell him more.

Mr. Johnson has lots more symbols sitting around Washington and lots of trouble spots. Earl Warren? Bobby Kennedy? Barry Goldwater-Dean Rusk? Who will go where?

Abe Mellinkoff