

Press-Herald

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The Story of Christmas

(The story of Christmas is told here with selected verses from the Gospel according to St. Luke as reported in The New English Bible, published by the Oxford University Press and the Cambridge University Press in 1961).

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, with a message for a girl betrothed to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David; the girl's name was Mary. The angel went in and said to her, "Greetings, most favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was deeply troubled by what he said and wondered what this greeting might mean. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for God has been gracious to you; you shall conceive and bear a son, and you shall call him Jesus. He will be great; he will bear the title 'Son of the Most High'; the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor, David, and he will be king of Israel for ever; his reign shall never end."—Chapter 1, Verses 26-33.

... Joseph went up to Judaea from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to be registered at the city of David, called Bethlehem, because he was of the house of David by descent; and with him went Mary who was betrothed to him. She was pregnant, and while they were there the time came for her child to be born, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him round, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them to lodge in the house.

Now in this same district there were shepherds out in the fields keeping watch through the night over their flock, when suddenly there stood before them an angel of the Lord, and the splendour of the Lord shone around them. They were terror-struck, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid; I have good news for you: there is great joy coming to the whole people. Today in the city of David a deliverer has been born to you the Messiah, the Lord. And this is your sign: you will find a baby lying all wrapped up, in a manger." All at once there was with the angel a great company of the heavenly host, singing the praises of God:

"Glory to God in highest heaven,
And on earth his peace for men on whom his favour rests."—Chapter 2, Verses 4-14

Opinion of Others

Private vs. Public

Again we have to go along with private enterprise for efficiency and profit, while we continue to wonder why the post office department needs to increase its rates and even cut back on some of its services to survive.

A clear demarkation between the efficiency of public and private operations was drawn in recent reports that Pacific Telephone Company plans to lower its rates, Southern California Gas Company has petitioned the California Public Utility Commission for authority to reduce natural gas rates to southland customers, while the postal department announced plans to increase rates again.

The Federal Communications Commission said of the telephone company plan to cut long distance station-to-station calls in February to \$1 or less that the rate reduction is the biggest cut in long-distance rates in history and was made possible "by the high level of business activity and increasing efficiency in telephone operation."

The gas company proposal, if approved by the PUC, would be effective January 1, 1965. It would be the fourth major gas rate reduction here in two years and would increase total annual savings to southland customers to more than \$25,000,000 during this period.

While utility rates go down, the post office department has plans to charge more for less. The post office is losing \$1,600 per minute. The utilities are making a profit for their stockholders. Mail deliveries and services have been cut. The utilities have improved their services and deliveries.

While reducing rates to customers, the utilities also support the government. For example, Pacific Telephone Company December 10 paid to Los Angeles County and nearly 70 incorporated cities in the county the first installment of its record shattering 1964-65 tax payment of \$38,516,175. This "contribution" is 9 per cent over last year or \$3,182,544 over last year's bill.

Even with taxes the utility managed to make a profit and to make it possible to cut its rates.

Yet, some people still think government control is better.—News-Advertiser Newspapers.

Just a few years ago the boys and girls walked a mile or so across town to school. Yes, yes, we know that things are "better" now, but just how is it better for children who are sadly lacking in physical development to ride in cars every step of the way, have a car to hot rod around in at noon and evening, risk highway tragedies, risk unchaperoned rides?—Pekin (Ind.) Banner Gazette.

Simple logic should teach us that any dollars which go to Washington will at least have to pay their own way back and therefore not get home as strong as they left.—Daingerfield (Tex.) News.

Our favorite words in any language . . .

"Peace On Earth To Men Of Goodwill"

Paix sur la terre, aux hommes de bonne volonté... French

Friede auf erden und den menschen ein willgefallen... German

Pace un terra agli uomini di buona volontà... Italian

Paz en la tierra ya los hombres buena voluntad... Spanish

Mir na zemem, Dobra sudem... Russian

Pokoj, dobra wola dla ludzkości... Polish

Επάην εις Ηρόναι εις Αγιον Ετους Αρδρπώσαν... Greek

Frid på jorden och människor för alla... Swedish

Rauha maassa ja ihmisille hyvin tulo... Finnish

Vrede op aarde aan de menschen van gaden wil... Dutch

Ramybe pasaulė del žmonių... Lithuanian

Pasch in terra e beuvulentscha lentre ik aarstaum... Swiss

Mir na zem, dobra rule fsem... Czech

天下和平友善令人... Chinese

John Morley

HERE AND THERE by Royce Brier

MLF Creature of Small State Department Group

Congressman Chet Holifield said in San Francisco recently that the idea of a mixed-manned nuclear fleet developed in a "certain small group" in the State Department during the Eisenhower Administration. He said these men are at a "working," not policy level.

If this is the case, it may explain the blind persistence with which the United States has pursued the idea for several years. For the government is so big and complex that a President cannot often examine thoroughly such zealous schemes which take on a life of their own, and keep rolling when the logic and practicability have lost force.

The nuclear surface fleet first came to public notice through President Kennedy, and almost immediately ran into trouble with our European allies.

The plan was to create, under NATO, a fleet of 25 ships armed with Polaris missiles. They would be

manned by crews of several western nationals and necessarily commanded by mixed officers.

But as the missiles would have nuclear warheads, it was apparent Congress would not agree unless the President retained a veto over firing.

The Germans didn't mind this, seeing it was an entering wedge for acquisition of nuclear missiles. The former Tory government in Britain was cool to the idea without rejecting it outright. Many ranking British admirals opposed the scheme on the ground that mixed crews could not be whipped into trained teams for combat. Differences of language and food were mentioned, and some of the admirals were downright scornful.

Recently the new Labor government has taken a positive step away from the project.

But President de Gaulle did not give his reasons for

opposing the fleet—he opposed it, period. He is not a NATO man anyway, and has recently hinted that if West Germany plays fleet with the United States, the Franco-German friendship pact may be out the window.

The Soviet Union, of course, has protested vigorously against the project, though it is still on paper, and would take several years to carry out.

Holifield believes the scheme would only further "proliferation" of nuclear weapons, at a time when nuclear powers are casting about for means to prevent a nuclear spread.

It is hard to say why the fleet did not fade out sometime last year, when it became evident it would be little more than a bilateral project of the United States and West Germany. But if it is true a small "working" group is still pushing it, it should be re-evaluated, as the jargon runs, at a higher level.

BOOKS by William Hogan

Joe Kennedy Biography Serious, Detailed Book

Recently, in discussing Richard J. Whalen's fine biography, "The Founding Father: The Story of Joseph P. Kennedy," I logged a few anecdotes from the book which interested me. Some concerned Joseph Kennedy's Hollywood period in the 1920s—one of many facets of this financial entrepreneur's extraordinary career.

Whalen's study is a far more serious, detailed and illuminating book than these light touches perhaps indicated. Indeed, "The Founding Father" strikes me as one of the most impressive biographies of the year.

Whalen's lengthy section titled "The Ambassador" is especially revealing and certainly anything but flattering to this banker, showman, speculator and New Dealer who was a "capitalist" in the free-wheeling 19th Century tradition. "The Ambassador" section, we understand, was prepared from recently declassified State Department documents housed in the Roosevelt Memorial Library. It is a merciless analysis of Ken-

neddy's limitations and shows that his pre-war and early wartime role as our representative at the Court of St. James was a near disaster. For one thing, believing that the British stood little chance of victory, Kennedy aligned himself with the appeaser's camp which, in England, was extremely influential before Winston Churchill took over as Prime Minister.

This, incidentally, was one of the few times in his varied careers that Kennedy backed the wrong horse. Certainly it put an end to his secret hopes that he might become the first Roman Catholic President of the United States.

Whalen's biography is by no means a debunking document. He calls the shots as history reveals them. The result seems to me a scrupulously fair, as well as wonderfully readable and anecdotal account of this enigmatic figure.

Joe's Midas-like financial touch, the author shows us, was applied for the sake of his family. This son of a

Boston saloon-keeper had an almost mystic concern for kith and kin. Whalen quotes a friend who knew Kennedy intimately in Washington: "From the beginning, Joe knew what he wanted—money and status for his family. He had the progenitor's sense—what he did, he did with his children always in mind. He played the game differently than if he had been after something entirely for himself."

No matter how interesting the secondary characters in this chronicle emerge, in the light of recent history, Whalen's narrative focuses always on Joe. It does so with detachment, and suggests that if Joe's own chance for greatness eluded him, he insisted with both passion and cunning that his children shoot for it themselves.

Joe played the game of politics in the shadows, however. When Jack became President, Joe suggested key names for the Cabinet. How far would the old man go? "I don't know," a family friend told the author, "but he IS greedy."

NEWS SPARKS by James Dorais

School Unification Mess Endangers Referendum

Nearly fifty years ago the United States entered a world war "to make the world safe for democracy."

For decades it has been an accepted concept that a chief purpose of public education is to prepare students to live in a democracy.

So wedded have we become to the word "democracy" that a few years ago a business firm that used the motto "this is a republic, not a democracy—let's keep it that way" on its metered mail was forced to abandon its use.

There is evidence, however, that this commitment to democracy is not very firmly entrenched in some governmental quarters. Witness, for example, the current attempts by some California politicians to deny the electorate the right to vote on initiative and referendum measures.

A very serious restriction on democratic rights is involved in the curious procedures by which California school districts are being forced to consolidate to form larger units, under penalty of curtailed state financial support for failure to do so.

Under state law, county committees must formulate plans to consolidate elementary school districts in order to achieve one or more unified districts within each county. Before these plans can be submitted to the electorate, however, they must be approved by the State Board of Education.

Consider how the system works in practice:

Under the terms of the Unruh Act, present high school district boundaries must not be broken up in forming unified districts, except under unusual circumstances.

Last year, the Marin County Committee on School District Organization adopted a unification plan for the consolidation of Tamalpais High School district with the elementary districts located within the high school district attendance area. The plan was approved by the State Board and submitted to a vote of the people, who turned it down.

The County Committee then adopted an alternative plan, calling for three uni-

fied districts, each built around the attendance areas of the three high schools within the Tamalpais High School District.

Last week, the State Board refused to allow the new proposal to go before the voters for approval or disapproval, holding that the previous voter turnout was not an unusual circumstance justifying an exception to the geographical limits set forth in the Unruh Act, and clearly indicating that the rejected proposal should be resubmitted to the voters.

This is democracy in the same sense that elections held in the "people's de-

mocracies" of Eastern Europe, permitting the people to vote for one dictator, are democracy.

Last week, the California School Boards Association decided that the more traditional American form of democracy should prevail. The Association voted to seek amendments to the Unruh Act which would eliminate high school boundaries as bases of geographical organization of unified districts, provide for equal state benefits to all districts, regardless of their unification status, and make possible votes by the electorate on plans to solve impasses between county committees and the State Board of Education.

Our Man Hoppe

It Has to Be Good for Peace

By Arthur Hoppe

I can't understand it. For years we've been pushing the idea of an MLF. You know, H-Bomb-equipped ships manned by mixed crews from all NATO nations. Because, as we keep pointing out, we generously wish to give our loyal NATO allies "a sense of participation." In case we have to blow up the world.

And yet, except for the lovable Germans, our loyal NATO allies keep dragging their feet. Indeed, hardly anybody has a kind word to say for MLF. Well, I do. I think it's one of the greatest forces for peace ever conceived.

Envision, if you will, the bridge of the MLF Ship Pinafore, manned by all of us loyal NATO allies. At the con is Captain Bligh S. Queeg, (Left Tackle, Annapolis, '36.) The French executive officer is lying in a hammock sipping Chateaufort du Pape, '16, and humming The Marseillaise. The Greek and Turkish sub-lieutenants are having a knife fight on the deck because one of them mentioned Cyprus again. And the British gunnery officer is speaking to no one else, due to the fact that no one else graduated from Sandhurst.

"ACHTUNG!" cries the German lookout, spying an ominous-looking streak in the water bearing in on the Pinafore amidsthips. "Das is ein unterwasser torpedobombe!"

"FEELTHY BOSCHE!" mutters the Frenchman, rolling over. "What did he say?" shouts Captain Queeg. "I do believe, old boy, there's a torpedo heading our way," says the Britisher coolly "Cyprus shall be Greek!" cries the Greek, taking another slice out of the Turk. "General quarters!" orders Captain Queeg grimly. "All hands to the Ship's Auditorium! Prepare the ballots!"

In the auditorium, Captain Queeg makes a simple, moving speech: "Men," he says, "there appears to be a torpedo heading our way and there can be little doubt it is of Russian manufacture. It is the position of the government that this is a hostile act and that we should retaliate by pushing The Button. The hour of decision, as set forth in sub-paragraph A, Section II, of the MLF Treaty, is at hand. I expect every man to do his duty and mark his ballot clearly."

There is a slight delay while this speech is translated into eight other languages. The Turk then counters with an eloquent plea to blow up Athens, instead. And when the vote is taken, the Britisher demands a recount on the grounds that three ratings were definitely out of uniform. The returns are: Blow up Moscow, one; Blow up Athens, one; Blow up the State Department, 137.

Captain Queeg joins in the British protest. After an allnight session, a compromise is reached submitting the issue to the World Court. The Frenchman says he will rely on his own force de frappe and jumps overboard. The Greek and the Turk . . .

So you can see where the MLF is clearly one of the most brilliant forces for pacifism the world has ever seen. But the real reason I'm for it is the concept of enduring Atlantic unity that lies behind it. For the nation which pushes The Button is going to be responsible for killing several hundred million human beings. And I think we ought to do our best to spread the guilt as widely as possible.

Morning Report:

It's pretty hard to pump any suspense into the inauguration. Everybody knows on November 3 who's going to take the oath on January 20.

It's true that President Jackson threw a drunken brawl in the White House and President Kennedy called in a poet. But nobody expects President Johnson to do either. In recent history, the First Lady's dress has caused some interest. But this time, LBJ has created no little stir by announcing what he will wear: black fedora, Oxford-gray business suit, and gray top hat.

No matter how historic this outfit, it's Lady Bird's inaugural gown that will go to the Smithsonian Institution for posterity and his clothes will end up with the Salvation Army for salvage.

Abe Mellinkoff



"Man can control everything but a woman and a hurricane."