

Press-Herald

GLENN W. PFEIL Publisher
REID L. BUNDY Editor and Co-Publisher

Torrance, Calif., Sunday, August 27, 1967

Beyond the Computers

This is an age when great stress is laid on efficiency.

Look at the ads in the papers, and you will find employment situations that require technicians, programmers and disciplines of sophisticated minds that are required for the age of automation and computerization. Scientists, economists, and politicians are building careers in working out and applying new theories of managing the economy, the money or practically anything you care to name. There is a basic distrust of natural forces.

And yet, paradoxically, everywhere you turn in nature, you find a finely balanced mechanism at work with an efficiency that man can never hope to equal.

Is there anything that can equal the automatic ebb and flow of supply and demand in a free market? Millions of businessmen, farmers, manufacturers, financiers, and industrialists of all kinds make decisions each day in accordance with the needs and demands of the marketplace. No machine can make these decisions and no planner can ever hope to program them in a computer.

The American retail distribution system is an excellent example of how our wants are satisfied in the free market. Retail merchants in every line, regardless of whether they represent chain or independent outlets, respond with a sensitiveness to changing markets and consumer desires that leaves the planner with his slide rule at the starting post.

In the inflationary era of today, the free market and our mass-distribution system automatically assure consumers of the fairest prices possible commensurate with the natural laws of supply and demand. No man-made automated economic system can do as much.

A Federal Takeover

The Employment Service Act of 1967 would expand the functions of the United States Employment Service and give it additional control over state-operated employment agencies.

The act would establish a federal-state employment service which would also create an expanded employment and manpower program to be administered in accordance with standards approved by the Secretary of Labor.

It is important that the public employment services remain within the jurisdiction of the states. Voluntary cooperation between the states and the federal government in the operation of the employment service is justifiable if the degree of initiative is retained by the states.

This proposed expansion would give the federal government increased authority over employment and job classification requirements within individual states, and in some cases make it difficult for independent business to recruit and retain competent personnel.

Opinions of Others

We are living in a highly unionized era, so it should be no surprise that someone should come up with the idea of unionizing public aid. Believe it or not such a move is under way to form a Public Aid Union, to guarantee a higher standard of living for recipients, and the dignity due them from a socialistic government. It is true a socialistic government does owe relief recipients dignity from the fruits of the laborer's wages, but, at the time being we still have the republic form of government, and are not completely socialistic, therefore we owe no respect where respect is not due; we owe nothing to those who are unwilling to do for themselves.—Gillespie (Ill.) Area News.

If you talk a lot, you are bound to say something wise occasionally—but if you talk too much, chances are nobody will be listening.—James H. Russell in the Belton (Tex.) Journal.

Any man who thinks he is going to be happy and prosperous by letting the government take care of him should take a close look at the American Indian.—Alamo (Tex.) News.

GUIDING LIGHT



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Philosopher By the Bay Discourses on Bad Taste

I'm no longer undone when somebody accuses me of "bad taste." With billions being squandered on an insane war while our own people live in squalor; while education, mental health and welfare are being sabotaged in the sweet name of "economy," as long as this administration insists on policing the world while it can't police its own streets; when the mere possession of pot can be a felony and thieves walk free—then the whole concept of "taste" needs re-defining.

This is the age of distrust. Perhaps you have noticed that when a city bus driver dismounts for a few seconds to put a wandering trolley back on the wire, he always takes his coin-changer with him.

The guy who raises his right hand and says "If this isn't true may my mother drop dead" is about to tell you a lie. Or maybe he just hates his mother. The guy who says "Stop me if you've heard this one" can't be stopped, and you have. The guy who says "I never ask for favors" is about to ask for one.

If you answer a letter, the recipient says "Oh you need not have bothered;" if you don't, he says "What's the matter, too big to answer your mail?" If you praise the police, you're a cop-lover; if you knock them, you're some kind of pinko. If you express interest in and sympathies for the hippies, you're a dirty old man trying to recapture your youth, or capture theirs; if you blast the hippies, you're narrow-minded, reactionary, and jealous. If you vote for the lesser of two evils (the only choice granted these days), you get what you deserve; if you don't vote—ditto.

Samuel Butler (1835-1902)

Morning Report:

After all these years, Congress has come up with a new idea. Session after session, there have been all kind of plans to help make us voters rich. But now, Wright Patman of the House Banking Committee, suggests a plan to keep us from going broke.

For the moment, he wants to crack down on those ubiquitous charge cards furnished by your friendly banker. The venerable Texas congressman is afraid the cards will make it too easy to charge things. He wants to protect us from ourselves.

It will never work. We are willing to accept almost any kind of protection—against rats, foreigners, floods, plagues, Communists, or droughts. But every American wants to be able to go to hell in his own handbasket, even if he has to charge it.

Abe Mellinkoff

Alongside a Real American—

AFFAIRS OF STATE

Special Taxing Districts Growing at Painful Pace

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR
Capital News Service

SACRAMENTO — High taxes are a common subject for discussion these days, and one of the reasons there are high taxes at the local level stems from the general growth of the special district method of government.

This growth is little short of fantastic, according to a report made by State Controller Houston I. Flournoy, who is required to produce annual figures on financial transactions that concerns special districts of California.

His report, just out for the year 1965-66, shows the growth is at the rate of more than 100 per year. There were, at the time his report was closed, a total of 3,628 special districts in operation, which was 104 more than the previous fiscal year.

This means that if they were averaged out, there would be more than 63 special districts in each of California's counties, but of course, there are more in some counties and less in others.

The magnitude of their operations is reflected in the fiscal transactions recorded with the controller.

Revenues received from all sources amounted to \$752,168,980 and expenditures totaled \$892,737,117. "The controller's office," said Flournoy, "published its first annual report on special districts in 1951, covering 1,787. In this year's report, 16 years later, the number had grown until it has more than doubled."

★ ★ ★
"The growth of taxing

Sacramento

jurisdictions in California has been criticized strongly, but attempts to curb this growth have not been successful, at least if the one hundred districts per year increase is any indication," the controller said. Government by special districts is a relatively easy method of obtaining services which in many instances could be performed by private enterprise.

In the case of water supplies, special districts have been formed in various parts of the state to buy out private water companies.

★ ★ ★
Recreation districts have been formed to take over the operation of marinas,

and for other purposes as well.

There are 49 classifications for which special districts can be formed, the outstanding category being water problems, which accounts for 632 districts, including irrigation districts as well as domestic water supply.

Fire protection is normally considered to be a community enterprise, and special districts in this category account for a total of 465. Highway lighting accounts for 385 special districts, aid sanitation 267, while there are 148 cemetery districts.

★ ★ ★
Growth of this type of government reflects the growth of demand by certain segments of the population for government services.

The question is how far the people can go in requiring these services, and whether or not in many instances, they should be performed by the cities and counties. If such were the case, it follows there would be less of a demand for the services, as a greater number of people would be required to pay for them. The special service looks good when first proposed, but the taxes go on forever.

ROYCE BRIER

LBJ Avoiding a Showdown Over Declaration of War

The story buzzing around Washington is that President Johnson doesn't ask the Congress to declare war in Vietnam because the United States declares wars to win.

This premise is followed by a most pious conclusion: that the United States is not engaged in military action in Vietnam to "win" a war, but to stop an intervention.

Secretary of State Rusk has many times proclaimed this thesis, and he has designated the intervenor as the North Vietnam government. Let this intervention cease, he says, and the United States will cease its military action and a peace can be negotiated.

In this smooth and reiterative reasoning is buried a good deal of sophistry. For instance, it does not take into account the Viet Cong, which is an insurrection against the Saigon government. It does not take account of the probability that should North Vietnam cease to support the Viet Cong, the latter could continue the insurrection, if on a reduced scale.

★ ★ ★
But the reasoning of

Washington and doubtless Mr. Rusk as to why the President does not ask for a declaration to declare war in Vietnam because the United States declares wars to win.

The Viet Cong is not a sovereign, and a sovereign, while it can wage war against non-sovereign combinations, cannot declare war against them. The

World Affairs

United States never declared war on the South in the Civil War because President Lincoln did not recognize the Confederate States as a sovereign. "Combinations" was his own word for the rebellion.

North Vietnam, of course, is a sovereign, but North Vietnam has not committed acts of war against the United States, except that the United States is supporting South Vietnam. But North Vietnam has not declared war against the United States and its acts of war, if any, are committed against South Vietnam.

★ ★ ★
Certainly the Johnson Administration contends as its

sole legal and moral support for waging war in Vietnam, that it has a "commitment" to support South Vietnam. But this commitment so-called was made originally by President Eisenhower in 1954, and it was not a commitment to wage war, but to give advisory aid to the then government in Saigon.

Yet even the premise of all this reasoning is invalid. The United States has not always declared war to "win." It did not do so in the War of 1812, nor in the Mexican war in 1846. The declared war against Germany was not "won," but was ended by an armistice, in which the United States was only "associated" with the Western allies by President Wilson's definition.

For the true reason why Mr. Johnson does not ask for a declaration, check the War of 1812. The northeast, which had the bulk of the population, opposed it. The southeast and sparsely settled west supported it. The vote in the House of Representatives for a declaration against England was 79 for, 49 against, a fat minority which made it our most fumbling war.

Naturally, Mr. Johnson doesn't wish to repeat such a showdown, or anything approaching it. Then why doesn't he say so?

FROM THE MAILBOX

'Inhumanity' Charged by Union Committee Leader

Editor, Press-Herald

As a union committeeman working in Lawndale, I had occasion to present a request to management on behalf of the Ladies' Auxiliary Post No. 1622 of the Lomita VFW.

The request was that the company allow the ladies to have a barrel placed near the front for the collection of new and used blankets and quilts from employees. These were to be converted to back and seat pads for wheelchair patients in the Veteran's Hospitals. The request also asked that the company run a notice in the company paper with this information.

The company's answer to this request was, "No, we do not want to get involved." Yet, the very next day the company placed advertisements around the plant for the purpose of selling tickets to an Angel's baseball game. This actually

cost the company money due to the fact that it allowed its personnel to sell and solicit the tickets. All the ladies asked for was a collection barrel!

The company is producing under an Army contract. This contract, and indeed the plant itself may not have existed were it not for the men with him this "management" does not now want to get "involved." These men "got involved" for this freedom that we all now enjoy . . . yes, even management.

I, as a veteran and a citizen cannot understand how a government plant, working under an Army contract fully supported by taxes from the American people, can allow its management personnel to take this inhuman attitude toward our disabled veterans who are still paying for our freedom.

LARRY FAYARD,
Committeeman,
UAW Local 1459,
AFL-CIO

Cut Foreign Aid

Editor, Press-Herald,

The time is ripe for an all-out demand to Congress by the people to drastically cut foreign aid. Of all government spending, foreign aid is the most profligate. As of June 30, 1967, unexpended foreign aid funds from prior years stood at \$15 billion. Despite this \$15 billion overhang, the President is asking for some \$10 billion in new foreign aid appropriations!

The \$15 billion foreign aid overhang is already appropriated and could be re-obligated. It could be used to finance a drastically cut foreign aid program. The remainder could be used to support the war effort. These measures would reduce the expected federal deficit by \$15 billion; the impending war surtax would be unnecessary.

These suggested measures would have an electric effect on our economy.
C.C. MOSELEY

Quote

It becomes increasingly evident that persons who die of natural causes while behind the wheel of a vehicle constitute a major highway hazard. We must find new and better ways of predicting heart problems. — Gordon C. Luce, state transportation agency administrator.

★ ★ ★
I am still hopeful that we can find a way to eventually remedy the situation. But SB539 is not the way. Our best experts tell us that this will cost the state in the foreseeable future around \$800 million. That kind of money is not available. — Gov. Ronald Reagan, on vetoing bill permitting retirement credit for out-of-state teaching service.

★ ★ ★
If we ever need to pay bonuses to recruit teachers, let's pay it to the ones who are yet to come here—not the ones already recruited. —California School Boards Association, in opposing bill for out-of-state retirement for teaching.