

Press-Herald

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Witnesses 'On Call'

Witnesses subpoenaed to testify in Superior Court must sometimes wait to be called and this often results in inconvenience and loss of pay.

But this has now been changed — due to the efforts of District Attorney Evelle J. Younger with the cooperation of Superior Court judges — in establishing an "on-call" system.

Under this procedure, most witnesses are being subpoenaed by mail — instead of in person — and are told to telephone the district attorney's office, leaving a telephone number where they can be reached during the day.

Then, if they are needed the witnesses are called, said Younger, noting that "once a person has been placed 'on-call' it is his duty to be available as a witness until notified by our office or otherwise excused by the court."

The district attorney, a former Superior Court judge, recalls the inconvenience of the previous system and said the new plan is one he has long wanted to inaugurate.

He praised Superior Court judges for their assistance and pointed out that the success of the "on-call" method depends on witnesses understanding that "attendance at court is required by law in order to insure that both the accused and the prosecution have a fair and impartial trial."

In addition to being subpoenaed by mail, witnesses now receive a brochure from the district attorney's office, "Called As A Witness," which explains the system, now in effect in Superior Courts in Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pasadena, Pomona, Santa Monica, Torrance, and Van Nuys.

Opinions of Others

Public opinion is vital in a government of the people, like the United States, and it is important for voters to study public issues and make up their minds about policies for their country. When those in authority put into effect what they think is the right approach to solve an issue, it is easy for critics to stand on the sidelines and howl. The test, however, is not the volume of catcalls, but whether the critics offer an alternative that seems to possess a better chance of success.—*Montgomery (W.Va.) Herald.*

It is becoming more and more apparent that there are no brakes to the "inflation car" everyone is riding in today. Everyone agrees that rampant, uncontrolled inflation is not desirable, yet one by one, the restrictions have been lifted. Now we are in a time when there seems to be little restraint. More is asked and more given in wages, material, and prices so that now there is nothing to stop the inflation except a crash. Call it recession, depression, readjustment, or just plain hard times, it appears to be the next step in the economic cycle.—*Angola (Ind.) Steuben Republican.*

Freedom is a gift from the past, but it is not at all certain that it will be a legacy of the future.—*Denver (Colo.) Colorado.*

From the Mailbox

Sign Ordinance Hearing Slated

Editor, Press-Herald
Last May the Planning Commission of the City of Torrance was about to forward to City Council an extremely restrictive Sign Ordinance. Your editorial on the subject resulted in the formation of the Torrance Merchants Sign Committee and we persuaded the Commission to postpone action on their ordinance.

We were given 90 days to write a merchant oriented Sign Ordinance. After several well attended meetings, we submitted what we feel is a reasonable Sign Ordinance to the Planning Commission. The final decision on this

matter at the Commission level will be made Wednesday, November 15 at 7 p.m. in the Torrance Council Chambers.

We urge all members of the merchant community to attend, compare the merits of the ordinances, and support the most reasonable ordinance.

The effects of an unreasonable ordinance will be felt by the entire community: Citizens and Merchants alike.

Thank you for your help in alerting the community to this important matter.

LEO SALISBURY,
Chairman
Torrance Merchants Sign Committee

Morning Report:

President Johnson has escalated again and on a new front. He has authorized each of the 435 members of the House of Representatives to buy another electric typewriter, the better to write more letters to us, the voters.

This, of course, will require more secretaries to man the typewriters, and more postmen to deliver the letters that will be produced. Also, as Congressmen use no stamps, the Postmaster General will probably soon announce a new deficit to cover the increased burden of more free letters.

But best of all will be the letters themselves: Dear Voter: Thanks for your brilliant suggestion on how to spend more, tax less, end the war, increase national security, and don't forget me at the next election." All electrically typed.

Abe Mellinkoff

How Deep Is the Ocean?



HERB CAEN SAYS:

The Newest Craze? Why It Is Ape Art, He Says

Now Then: We've had Pop Art and Op Art and next—Ape Art! Nineteen non-objective masterpieces painted by seven chimpanzees at the San Francisco Zoo are on display in the Golden West Savings and Loan office at First and Market — eight of them by the terribly talented ape, Tallulah, who will be there to sign autographs, wearing training pants and a silly grin . . . Hermione Gingold, currently starring in "Dumas & Son" at the Curran Theater, hopes to hook up with ACT: "Can't you see me in white make-up, playing the madam of a terribly expensive French maison de jole? Oh, I DO hope they have a part like that for me!"

I Don't Think he meant it this way, but it is not at all certain that it will be a legacy of the future.—*Denver (Colo.) Colorado.*

The Other Morn there was an Episcopalian Minister, Alvin Pevehouse, who baptized an infant in a midnight ceremony at San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts lagoon, adding "I blessed the whole lagoon — it is now ALL holy water." Well, this inspired an irate call to Grace Cathedral from a woman who said: "Outrageous! That is a non-denominational lagoon. How

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

can we desanctify that water?" "Well, madam," suggested Suffragan Bishop Richard Millard pleasantly, "You could always drink it!" . . . The Presidio PX has banned Playboy magazine and all the enlisted men who buy it just to read Herb Gold's stories are pretty annoyed . . . From the AP's story on jailed GI's in Vietnam smoking pot: "Officials found that trustees were smuggling in marijuana in their shorts and have cut off that source of supply." By making 'em wear drop-seat BVDs?

Return to Elegance: The

St. Francis' Medallion Room has been remodeled into something, quite glorious with all the waiters in tails and Maitre d'Hotel John Brunel decked out in gray silk stock and cutaway, making the customers look tackier than ever . . . Speaking of restaurants, if there's a better dish anywhere than La Bourgogne's Croute de Homard Brillat Savarin (made with Maine lobster), I'd like to try it. But not too soon. Not till my taste buds stop snapping.

Your Town and Mine: Looking slightly embarrassed, Atty. Bill Murphy, a former police officer, arrived in Judge Harry Low's court with his client — a good-looking feller dressed as a girl. Judge Low: "At the next proceeding, counsel, please have your client dressed appropriately or he will be held in contempt." Murphy: "Your Honor, I told him to wear a blue suit." Deputy D.A. Bill Sturgeon: "Mr. Murphy, will you stipulate that this gentleman is the defendant?" Murphy: "I will only stipulate that she is a gentleman."

WILLIAM HOGAN

Noted Muckracker Recalls Years of the Depression

Two autobiographical works of considerable strength are among the new books which are appearing in almost staggering numbers this season (until December). These are by Matthew Josephson and Marcia Davenport. I would like to make brief mention of them now, with the hope that they may be covered here in more detail before the winter holidays.

Matthew Josephson is the rare, controversial, colorful editor, biographer (Victor Hugo, Sidney Hillman) and member of a group of rebels and expatriates who helped make the 1920s exciting in New York and Paris. Indeed, Josephson was a member of a group that rebelled against other rebels by founding a magazine called *Secession* in 1922. He later became an editor of *The New Republic* and author of such muckraking books as "The Robber Barons."

This autobiographical study, "Infidel in the Temple" (Knopf; \$8.95), is, however, centered in the 1930s and is no doubt one of the most

authoritative accounts on record of the intellectual, political and business events of the Depression period — one, Josephson emphasizes, that was not "depressing," but years of lively ferment. His book abounds with anecdotes of the period's personalities, from the characters

Browsing Through the World of Books

who dominated Franklin D. Roosevelt's first two terms to Hemingway and Richard Whitney. He notes:

"I would say that before October 1929 Americans lived from day to day, without much thought of the future, believing themselves well favored by fortune. But after the Great Crash the people really began to think . . ."

Marcia Davenport's personal record of music, literature and politics over half a century is titled "Too Strong for Fantasy" (Scribner's; \$8.95). Music critic, biographer (of Mozart) and novelist ("The Valley of Decision"), Mrs. Davenport was the daughter of the

singer Alma Gluck and step-daughter of Erem Zimbalist, the violinist. When she contemplates the persons, activities, places, tastes and events of her life, she is "quite bewildered at their divergency."

Yet she sorts them out stylishly in a series of reminiscences and anecdotes which bear on a staggering cast of characters, Toscanini and Einstein to Thomas Wolfe; the late Jan Masaryk, Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia whom she had planned to marry before his mysterious death; to Russell Davenport, whom she did marry, one of the founders of *Fortune* magazine and a manager of Wendell Willkie's unsuccessful presidential campaign.

Of Wolfe (in this glittering book we hope to explore at greater length) she writes: "Tom Wolfe was as unlikely an acquaintance for me as a wild buffalo, who is rather resembled: huge, hulking, shaggy, clumsy, with an obsessed look in his eyes intensified by drink . . ."

CAPITOL NEWSMAKERS

Benefits Go to 83,000 Who Should Be Working

By EDWIN S. CAPPS
Capitol News Service
SACRAMENTO — John C. Montgomery, state director of social welfare, believes there presently are 83,000 persons in California who are drawing welfare benefits who are able to work.

On a national basis, Montgomery estimates the total number of welfare recipients able to work is near the million figure.

This is a long way from a White House estimate of several months ago that the total in the nation was only 50,000 persons.

Montgomery, who was a Ventura County supervisor before being named to his present post by Governor Ronald Reagan, doesn't believe this means that there are a lot of people on welfare who are shirking work. He feels only a small minority of recipients would rather loaf than work.

The main resource for these workers are those 169,000 family groups in California on Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or Aid to Families with Dependent Children—Unemployed (AFDC-U).

"There is only a small minority that does not want to work," Montgomery said. "There are many who are not able."

"Of the 83,000 we believe are able to work, many need training," he said. "And our figures include a lot of women which the federal estimates did not."

Montgomery said it must be remembered that the parents under the AFDC or AFDC-U programs often have insufficient education. He said about one-third have some high school and only one-third have high school education.

"California perhaps has tried to have too many space age students," Montgomery said. "I believe there should be more vocational schools, as there are in the Midwest. The kid who drops out of high school because of failure to grasp the

work would be much better off learning something which would help him to find a job."

Because of Reagan's tough stand on welfare during last year's campaign, many thought his welfare director would be hard-boiled. While Montgomery has a background of work on a county board of supervisors, where

The Men in Action on the Sacramento Scene.

welfare is a major problem, he falls far short of being an unsympathetic director.

Montgomery said the referral of welfare recipients for employment is and should be a year-around program, not just during the harvest season. In a recent survey, the department found that 4,600 men from AFDC-U families had been referred for farm work and about 3,200 were given jobs. Another 600 were placed in other types of employment and 261 were taken off the welfare roll because of failure to cooperate.

There have been two weaknesses in the referral program in the past, Montgomery said. The first has been a lack of cooperation between the state department of employment and social welfare. Too often, the department of employment was too concerned with its regular force of workers and not too enthusiastic about trying to put welfare recipients, with their own set of problems.

This is being corrected, Montgomery said, and he works closely with Peter Weinberger, now state director of employment.

The second weakness is that some counties "are not pushing hard enough," Montgomery said but progress also is being made in this area.

Montgomery was asked one of the old standards in questions about welfare. That is the often-heard complaint that some men and

women make more money by remaining on welfare than they would in working. Montgomery admitted this sometimes is true.

"The law is structures at the federal level so there actually is a fiscal disadvantage for some, especially men, to want to go to work," Montgomery said.

An AFDC family with five children receives \$318 per month and \$349 for six children. This often is more than the father or mother would earn in a month, not to mention the extra costs involved in working, Montgomery said. That would include transportation, clothes and possibly lunches and baby-sitters.

"We need a program of using more baby-sitters for working mothers — baby-sitters who are recipients themselves," Montgomery said.

It's true that a parent may remain on the welfare roll if he works, with some extra allowances made, but this is not enough of an incentive. The father of a family with five children couldn't improve his welfare income of \$318 per month much by working.

"We need a change such as is in a bill before congress which would permit the exemption of the first \$30 in extra earnings, plus 30 per cent of all over the \$30," Montgomery said. "And President Johnson wants the first \$50 exempted and 50 per cent of the rest, which would provide even more of an incentive."

One new policy of the department, which will take effect Dec. 1, will permit county social workers for the first time to advise welfare recipients on birth control and family planning. Montgomery emphasized this must be done without any pressure or coordination.

The policy is intended to permit the social workers to inform such recipients that information is available but it is up to them to avail themselves of it.

ROYCE BRIER

Jittery Fingers Nudging Triggers Along the Suez

In the old days, Britons returning from empire in the East, had problems, and they began to show at Tewfik at the Suez Canal entrance from the Red Sea. This Briton, an elegant, clipped chap, might be a fellow-passenger of yours on the old P&O liner *Cathay* and some fiendish pursuer had made you table mates in the dining salon. There were 500 Britons aboard, one American.

This Briton never deigned a good morning, and after a couple of faint tries, you quit. Indeed, he didn't say one damn word during a fortnight across the Indian Ocean from Singapore, via Bombay and Aden, and up the Red.

It was a dazzling morning, and slowly against the baked sand of the shores loomed two white patches, Tewfik to starboard, Port Suez to port.

What intolerable tensions had been in the man, you didn't know. Maybe his wife had run away with a Hong Kong draper, as in Maugham, maybe he had been sacked by the London office,

My Neighbors



maybe he had just been sick for England. But he glanced from a porthole, jumped up with staring eyes and cried, "My God, Tewfik!" And so dashed topside, leaving his breakfast herring.

But those were the days before Rommel and Montgomery, when Britons still carried the white man's burden. Those were the days when Britons still had room

for emotional flashes and if native Americans, native Egyptians and the like thought they were a tough dingy, who cared?

Things are not so droll out Tewfik way these days. The Britons are gone, having no means of getting their ships through the Canal, and Americans are having the jitters elsewhere. The Egyptians are still there though, or nearby, as they have been for 5,000 years, but a new people, the Israelis have come.

They sit, alert and dangerous, across the few glittering miles from the Egyptians in Port Suez, and between them is a dread malvolence.

The Israelis won the June war with such aplomb it was a world scandal. The Egyptians are chewing their wormwood. Along the Canal, like black beads on a bright string, the artillery batteries glower, the Egyptians west, the Israelis east. In the sky, the reconnaissance planes scream, looking for trouble in days pregnant with trouble.

Just recently an Israeli destroyer was steaming in the

strait, when boom! Shells hit her and she sank with a loss of many lives. The Egyptians said she was intruding on Egyptian waters, the Israelis said she wasn't, but it was on a routine patrol course. The Israelis said it was provocation to a new war. Cairo anticipated eye-for-eye retaliation.

Then Israeli artillery near Tewfik opened on Port Suez, hitting oil installations. Everybody ran for the United Nations.

If the Americans aren't too jittery elsewhere in the world, they might give fleeting attention to these jitters. The Russians suffered monumental humiliation in the June disaster, and they are not a resigned people. They are everywhere out that way, huddling, promising, urging, weighing. It could be more perilous than all the jitters elsewhere, but nobody knows.

Alan Grey Says . . .

The State of California . . . Can still attain its goal . . . With current modifications . . . To the law on smog control . . . As everyone knows . . . Are stricter in California . . . Than the law would now propose . . . They've given us the freedom . . . To find our own solution . . . Since we're the founding fathers . . . Of modern air pollution.