

Press-Herald

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Abundance: A Dirty Word

Strange as it may seem, there are those who believe there is too much competition in the marketplace. They believe there is too much choice on the store counters. They believe that all of our abundance merely confuses consumers, and steps should be taken to relieve this confusion by limiting the choice, regulating competition and decreasing the display of fewer products. This dissatisfaction with abundance is truly amazing.

The exponents of economic retrogression many want to go back to the good old days, but they will have a hard time taking the rest of the country into following them. As an advertisement of the Magazine Publishers Association points out, "In the 'good old days' grandpa worked twelve hours for the price of an 18-pound turkey. Today, he works only 3.2 hours. He worked forty minutes for a loaf of bread. Now it takes only five minutes."

Who is to say that 8,000 items on the shelves of a supermarket are too many, or too few—or that the price is too high or too low? No one can answer these questions better than the consumer exercising the unrestricted right of free choice in the marketplace.

Opinions of Others

What does it cost to keep a nation progressive—not just in dollars, but in things like the personal help and support we give our children, and thereby our public school systems? Our children are our most valuable resources. You've heard the trite expression many times: "Tomorrow's leaders, etc." And yet, it's true. So the cost is not just in what we pay each year in taxes for school books, and teachers' salaries—not just school clothes and lunch money. It's more than that. It's how much and what kind of encouragement you give your child.—Livingston (Tex.) Enterprise.

We have reached the point where right is on the defense, because the law is interested in protecting only the offender. Individuals and groups that are trying to undermine and destroy the laws of our country, its ideals and beliefs, should be dealt with firmly and promptly.—Weston (W. Va.) Independent.

I'd be more hopeful of winning the war on poverty if the managing agency weren't already nearly \$350 billion in debt. Perhaps the war strategy is to enlist everybody by bankrupting everybody, then we can all start at the bottom together again. Seems to me a pauper with nothing at all is somewhat higher on the economic scale than somebody that is \$350 billion in debt. Perhaps the poor folks ought to be helping their less fortunate Uncle, instead of vice versa.—Wynne (Ark.) Progress.

The White House staff, already the largest in history, continues to grow every month according to U.S. News and World Report. The magazine reported the staff is so large that even senior aides are unable to keep track of all the people called in to advise the President. And the budget was said to have been cut to the bone.—Anderson (S.C.) Free Press.

All citizens are entitled to equal rights and equal protection under the law. All citizens are entitled to equal employment opportunities, based on ability. But no citizen has the right to engage in unlawful acts at the expense of his fellow citizens. . . .—St. Pauls (N.C.) Review.

PERSONAL OPINION

An Attack From Within Puts Majority in Peril

By J. WALKER OWENS
Executive Vice President
Torrance Chamber of Commerce

This nation of ours seems to be under attack as much from within as it is from without. While we attempt to police, almost single-handedly, the rest of the world, we have those among our number here at home busily engaged in their attempts to bring their own government to its knees by what amounts to guerrilla warfare.

My guess is that about 98 per cent of the population of the United States is in no mood to stand idly by and see a handful of self-appointed saviors tear this nation up by its roots.

Political ambition and personal aggrandizement are one thing; we have had our demagogues and exploiters throughout history. But the fabric is beginning to wear thin with those who work hard every day doing honest work in order to better care for themselves and their families.

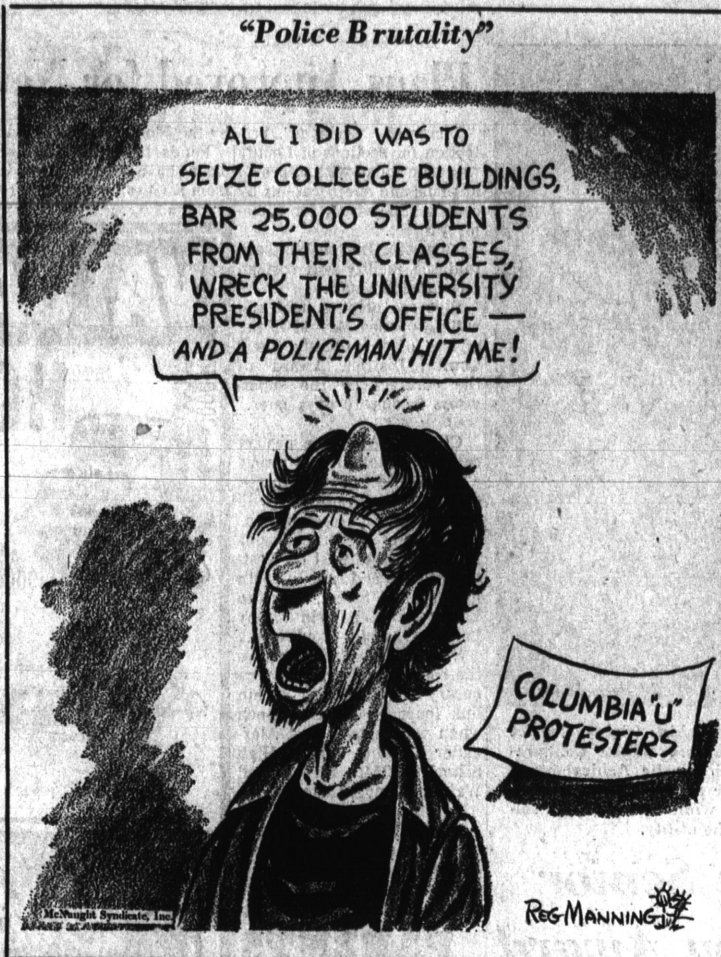
In most cases, those who would exploit race issues are the ones who are in the vanguard. We, the whites, have taught the blacks well; today their demagogues are

demonstrating a great ability to capitalize on the ferment which racial change is bringing about throughout our country. We have always had among us the white demagogue who played upon our fears and prejudices. The battle to see who can out-demagogue who among blacks is still raging.

It seems that it no longer matters what is right or wrong. It is only that which will help someone gain and maintain a personal advantage that counts. If, after a careful head count, there are more non-producers than there are producers, the tide turns in favor of the majority.

What with millions of us already nursing at the Federal teat, there is not great promise of a major change in attitude, regardless of our personal craving for independence. We already have become wards of the government almost without recognizing the fact.

It seems to me that we are building up to a revolt by the ninety-eight per cent which could lead us into a totalitarian state of government. Anyone who can count knows from what group and of what persuasion the head



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Bobby Fan Proves to Be Fast Gal With a Button

Bobby Kennedy, campaigning here recently, ran into an unexpected problem on his way to a speaking engagement. He boarded the elevator on the 23rd floor of the Fairmont Hotel Tower—and found himself standing next to a pretty mini-skirted girl who gasped "Bobby Kennedy!" A quick thinker, this girl: she then pressed every floor button to make the trip down last longer—and at the main floor, she boxed him in till the door closed again, at which she pressed 23. At first amused and at last annoyed, Kennedy finally escaped from the elevator, saying icily: "Young lady, I feel like I've spent an entire weekend with you—without any of the customary benefits."

Caenetti: If the Republicans go for Rockefeller and Reagan, it would mark the first time in U.S. politics that two divorced men ran on the same ticket—a point nobody has raised yet. Maybe we're making progress. . . . Glimpsed between the bordelais and the Beaujolais at Robert Charles' Bistro:

Novelist Irwin Shaw, here from his home in Switzerland to soak up the local atmosphere, liquid and otherwise. His next novel, "The Uncaged Man," is set partly in S.F., a city he hasn't seen in 20 years, "and I figured it must have changed a little since then." It has. . . . Hmf: Congr. Wayne Aspinall of Colo. here "investigating" the redwoods, refused to let his committee see the Sierra Club's Oscar-winning "The

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

Redwoods," because "we just don't have the time." What's HE afraid of? . . . Today's nonsense: Ski nuts Gary Hill, Walto Wilson, and other winter sports were at the Hakatu Japanese restaurant downtown, where Gary was having trouble with his chopsticks. Walt: "It's fairly simple — just keep your weight on the downhill stick."

The long needle: Major E. W. Power who wishes to enter Jeremy Ets-Hokin's Reverse Status Symbol Derby (rule: "The suit you are wearing must cost more than the car you are driving"), writes from Long Binh, Vietnam: "I am driving a jeep with a few odd bullet holes, no windshields, and somebody swiped the spare tire. However, my fatigues and boots are brand new. Please pass to Mr. Ets-Hokin." Done, gingerly.

Ah, yes: Bill Pomeroy, who made millions in the heavy construction business, has cut all his ties with S.F. and is making the Seychelle Isles (in the Indian Ocean) his permanent home. He lives in a big house with 11 servants who cost him \$55 a month all told, and makes "a tidy living" selling copra and cinnamon. . . . One slight drawback might be that the Seychelles are overrun with exotic bugs, as Noel Coward discovered when he stayed

there in a small hotel. When he checked out, scratching assiduously, the mgr. asked: "May I post a sign reading 'Noel Coward Slept Here'?" "Certainly," nodded Noel, "if you'll add one word—'fitfully.'"

Suggestions for Mayor Alloto: Install a sign in Golden Gate Park pointing the way to Hippie Hill, now high on the tourist list. . . . Hire all our talented unemployed artists to decorate freeways with psychedelic designs (now you know that's one great idea). . . . Swing hard for more sidewalk restaurants, especially downtown; in this miniskirted era, there are so many lovely sights to see while sipping coffee—it's a shame. . . . Institute an annual city bus race at the beach, so our drivers can work off their frustrations. I see this as a giant slalom, with traffic signals to shoot.

Meanwhile, Father William DuBay, the controversial Los Angeles priest, attended the Catholic Education meeting held here recently (12,000 nuns, Bishops, and priests), and outside the Hilton ran into a streetwalker who sighed: "Fathed, this just is not our kind of convention!" . . . This happens regularly, agreed, but it's always a boggler. Fiona Campbell, wearing a Siddhartha Kurta (E. Indian pants and jacket), was refused admittance at Senior Pico—so she took off the pants, right there at the entrance, and was promptly admitted. Even as a Leg Man, I find this ridiculous.

American President Lines' two President Johnsons will pass each other off Los Angeles in the next few days—one traveling south to be sold, the northbound ship staying in service. Quote from AFL exec who doesn't want his name used for obvious reasons: "We feel that one President Johnson is more than enough, even if it's Andrew."

Morning Report:

The well-meaning people who would pack up and pull out of Vietnam by the next boat have taken another blow. Madison, in Wisconsin, voted "no" on that plan, as Cambridge, Mass., and San Francisco did earlier.

All deep-feelers have a notion that the voters will agree with them if they have a chance. And are shocked when they don't.

Actually making peace is just as complicated as making war—if not more so. And it's a very good thing that neither is decided by "yes" or "no" votes at the polls. If war is too important to be left to the generals, then it is equally true that peace is too vital to be left to the people.

Abe Mellinkoff

SACRAMENTO SCENE

'Merit Plan' for Judges Opposed by Noted Jurist

By HENRY C. MacArthur
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — Strong opposition to the so-called merit plan of selecting California judges, proposed by Governor Ronald Reagan as a part of his legislative program this year, is expressed by Justice Lester W. Roth, presiding magistrate of the second district court of appeal in Los Angeles, in an article published by the Beverly Hills Bar Journal for April.

Briefly, the Reagan plan, sought through a proposed constitutional amendment, SCA 2, and senate bill 28, both carried by Senator Donald A. Grunsky, (R-Watsonville) contemplates appointment of judges on recommendation of a judicial commission.

The measures have cleared the assembly governmental efficiency and economy committee, and are now in the hands of the senate finance committee. They are highly controversial in the legal fraternity itself, and the issue, when and if it is placed before the people of the state next November, is expected to generate a statewide battle.

Says Justice Roth: "No proof has been submitted that the plan is as good as the system we now have, except the representation of the bar governors that the

democratic system we now have is bad and their plan is better."

He points out that although a judgeship is an elective office, in actual practice it is an appointive office. He says of the proposed plan:

"Realistic analysis demonstrates that the governor of the state completely abdicates his power to a commission which he cannot control, which is not accountable to him and which can completely circumvent him."

"Further the commission is accountable and responsible to no one. It is outside the elective process and it is in itself a complete governmental unit insulated from the reach of the people."

"An anatomical analysis of the membership of the several commissions show the bar governors will control and dominate not only the appointment of all judges but that they will inevitably influence the conduct of the judges so appointed."

The justice declares that the plan would establish an oligarchy, and asserts that "an oligarchy is one step removed from a despotism. He points out that the du-

ties of a bar governor are tremendous and that few lawyers, except members of some size, can afford to accept the position of bar governor.

"It is a fact," says Justice Roth, "of professional life that bar governors, past and present, control the line of succession to the board of the state bar. Old governors never die—they don't even fade away."

As to the laymen on the proposed commissions, he said they are "quite likely to be clients of various bar governors." Whether they are or not, he states they are "quite likely not only to defer to the judgment and advice of the lawyer-judge members of the commission, but as a practical matter, to accept and act upon it."

The justice says it is naive and most optimistic to assume the commissions will be free from compromise and trading, frequently charged to the governor of a state in the exercise of political patronage.

"The only remedy which can completely stop compromise and trading in the exercise of appointive and legislative power, whether it be in the hands of an executive or commission, is to place the power in the hands of a beneficent, enlightened, discerning and aggressive tyrant. God, too, would qualify."

WILLIAM HOGAN

'Instant History' Books Strike Series of Snags

Instant history: Book publishing's race to keep abreast of the news hit a major hurdle this month. This was President Johnson's announcement of his decision not to run for the Presidency again, plus his decision to de-escalate the war in Vietnam. A dozen or so books about the President, the Presidency and politics in Vietnam were affected by the pronouncement.

Publishers of books by Robert F. Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy, on the other hand, were riding a bullish market. But Clark Mollenhoff's "George Romney: Mormon in Politics" and two other biographies of the Michigan governor who bowed out of the Presidential primary race before Mr. Johnson did, remained unsold and unread.

Coward McCann dropped all plans to issue "The Case for Lyndon B. Johnson," James A. Robinson's argument for another Johnson term. The trade magazine Publishers' Weekly reported that W. W. Norton stopped binding "JFK and LBJ: The Influence of Personality Upon Politics," by Tom Wicker of the New York Times, until Wicker could dictate by phone new material on why LBJ decided not to run.

Athenum was left holding the bag with Hugh Sidney's "A Very Personal Presidency: Lyndon Johnson in the White House." Macmillan will go ahead with June publication of "Sam Johnson's Bay," Alfred

Steinberg's critical study of Mr. Johnson's early career in Texas politics. James MacGregor Burns is hastily re-writing some sections of "The Frontier Moves On: The Program of Lyndon B. Johnson," which McGraw-Hill still expects to issue during the summer.

Browsing Through the World of Books

Knopf is proceeding with Eric Goldman's "The Tragedy of Lyndon Johnson" (July). New American Library announced a title change, at least, in Larry L. King's volume of essays, formerly "My Hero LBJ and other Dirty Stories."

Norton has postponed Ronnie Druggers' biography, "Johnson: From Poverty to Power" until after the November elections when a final chapter will be added. Pyramid Books, which had Robert Sherrill's extremely caustic "The Accidental President" doing very well as a mass-market paperback, Thomas E. Dewey (New reported to the trade press

that it "just didn't know" if it would go into second printing.

Among the most successful anti-Johnson books is the little \$1 "Quotations from Chairman LBJ." Simon & Schuster frankly admitted it did not know what the change in the political atmosphere would do to its early astronomical sales (500,000 copies in print).

Norton, like other publishers with Vietnam books in stock, has its problems with "What Is Wrong in Vietnam?" already printed and bound. This is a book in which William J. Lederer (co-author of "The Ugly American") calls for some "rethinking on a national problem."

Less "instant history," but safe enough historically: "The Loneliest Campaign: The Truman Victory of 1948," Irvin Ross' analysis of Mr. Truman's apparently hopeless prospects that year and the strategy that resulted in his victory over Thomas E. Dewey (New American Library).

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