Your Right to Know Is the Key to All Your Liberties

Press-Herald

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Most Maligned Dangers

The frequent efforts of so many people to excuse rioters, arsonists, and other lawbreakers on the basis of some tortured concept of group guilt is one of the more depressing aspects of these worrisome times.

Violence is not synonymous with dissent, and no society can progress across the rubble of broken laws.

We are reminded of the words of President Herbert Hoover, who in his inaugural address took cognizance of the problems of that critical period in these words:

"The most maligned of all dangers today is the disregard and disobedience of law. Rigid and expeditious justice is the first safeguard of freedom, the basis of all ordered liberty, the vital force of progress. Our whole system of self-government will crumble if officials elect what laws they will enforce or citizens elect what laws they will obey.

"The worst evil of disregard for some laws is that it destroys respect for all laws."

Pledging that he would prosecute and enforce the laws of this country "to the extent of my own abilities," Hoover warned, however, that the measure of success of such enforcement would depend upon "the moral support which you, as citizens, extend."

His words still apply—to government, and to us as citizens.

A Business Statesman

Those who question whether there is sufficient opportunity or challenge in the business world for aspiring young people anxious to be of service to society might find it rewarding to consider a leading business executive who is being named the first honorary chairman of the board of one of the country's largest merchandising establishments—Sears, Roebuck & Company.

This gentleman of business, General Robert E. Wood is completing more than 43 years of active participation in the affairs of his company.

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, he served 10 years in Panama during the building of the Panama Canal.

During World War I, he directed all port, water terminal and shipping activities in France and England as head of the Army Transport Service. Later he was promoted to brigadier general, and upon returning to civilian life in 1919, he began a career in business that earned him worldwide recognition in the field of mass merchandising.

Under his guidance, Sears, Roebuck became an outstanding American institution, successful because of the part it played in developing the concept of mass distribution which has benefited every community in the nation.

Through his career, General Wood has been recognized as a business statesman—a statesman whose philosophy is best expressed in his words: "Business must account for its stewardship not only on the balance sheet, but also in matters of social responsibility."

General Wood's career is in itself a challenge to those who feel there is insufficient challenge for them in the business world.

Opinions of Others

A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largess out of the public treasury. From that moment on the majority always votes for the candidate promising the most benefits from that public treasury, with the result that a democracy will always collapse from a loose fiscal policy, always to be followed by a dictatorship. This ominous statement was penned nearly two centuries ago by the 18-century Scottish historian and judge, Alexander Fraser Tytler. The learned judge had in mind the fate of the Roman Republic. . . . The U.S. seems destined not only to repeat the mistakes of history, but the mistakes of modern history. We may be excused, though nonetheless doomed, for failure to heed the example of ancient Rome; but the example of Britain is too close and too obvious for a plea of ignorance.—*Marysville (Calif.) Appeal-Democrat.*

BOOMERANG!

When I'm Through With You—

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Ogallala the 'Watuhloo' For His Boston Tongue

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

The beat goes on: RFK, who has the Kennedy habit of turning "a" into "er," came a croppa both in Indianer and Nebrasker — especially when he reached the town of Ogallala. "Ogerlaller was definitely my Watuhloo," he chuckles. . . . Hey, I finally heard of somebody winning a big prize in one of those innumerable Lucky Number Sweepstakes gimmicks. Everett Richardson of Oakland just rec'd a $3,000 check in the Reader's Digest contest. Now if I could just meet somebody who has been polled by a TV rating service. . . . Page one headline of the year, in the Blue Lake Advocate of Humboldt County, Calif.: "Blue Lake Chamber to Holt Potluck, Hear Report on Gas." . . . San Francisco Giants Pitcher Mike McCormick began performing feats of magic at a local club the other night, and pretty soon he had the whole crowd around him. Good! Mike, modestly: "A guy has to think of his future, y'know."

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Jewish father story: Mrs. Gideon Saguy, wife of the Israeli Consul-General here, expects a baby in about five months—approximately the same time the Saguys are being recalled to Israel. "Do you want your child born here or back home?" Saguy was asked, and he replied: "Well, it depends on whether we decide he should grow up to be President of the United States—or Israel."

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The beat goes on: What "streamlined, transistorized, computerized Kennedy campaign" are they talking about? Locally, it still looks like utter confusion, compounded by short money. . . . Great 3:30 a.m. sight at S.F. International Airport: There's Steve McQueen, doing a "Bullitt" scene, throwing himself on the ground between the wheels of a taxiing Pan American jetliner. Reporter: "Couldn't you have used a dummy?" Steve, brushing himself off: "We did!" . . . "Petulia," the Richard Lester-Julie Christie film shot here and in Sausalito last yr., will be the official U.S. entry in the Cannes Film Festival, and those who've seen it say "it's the worthiest candidate we've ever had." From all reports, a dazzler. . . . The "streamlined, computerized" McCarthy campaigners are opening a discotheque called "Eugene West" this week in the North Beach District—a la the "Eugene" in N.Y.; rock bands, dancing, acts, etc.

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What was that barge doing out there behind Alcatraz? Glad you asked. In fact, it might still be there. Aboard the barge is a crew and a huge balloon made of plastic clothes bags (the kind cleaners use), with a "gondola" of two garbage cans. Now we pan to Pier 39, where we find a helicopter containing Pilot John Ortega and cameraman John Stevens. When the weather is just right, the ballon will rise behind Alcatraz and Stevens will shoot it from the chopper—all this for a scene in "Skidoo," which has Jackie Gleason escaping from Alcatraz via the homemade gasbag. Sorry you asked?

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Richard O'Lone, the Aviation Week correspondent here, telling a group about the forthcoming wonders of supersonic flight: "The stewardess will slap your face before you can get a word out." It's also his story about the travel agent trying to soothe a nervous Little Old Lady before her first flight: "If it wasn't safe, ma'am, would we be using the fly-now-pay-later-plan?" . . . Ed Cameron, avid collector of typographical errata, has a dandy this week from the Oakridge, Ore., Telegram: "The boating accident reports from which statistics are compiled indicate that of the seven fatalities so far this year, sex would have been prevented had the victims been wearing life preservers.

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Here we are aboard a very crowded bus on Market Street and there in the aisle is Dapper Jack Arden, next to a great-looking young lady. Each time the bus stops and starts they are thrown against each other, whereupon the chick finally says: "Y'know, if you were a little younger, or I a little older, we could have a ball doing this. But since you're not and I'm not, I'm getting off." Poor Jack. Poor all of us. . . . Ruth Ann Plunkett, trying to sell her station wagon, has a sign on the back reading "$500 or best offer." As she was parked behind the wheel one afternoon, a passerby leaned down to inquire: "Isn't that a bit high, lady? I can get a pro in the Tenderloin for 20 bucks." . . . I guess that evens the score.

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Barrel's bottom: Dining all alone at L'Etoile recently: Louis Vaudable, owner of Paris' renowned Maxim's, where L'Etoile's owner, Claude Rouas, once worked as headwaiter. "I'm amazed and impressed!" cried Vaudable. Then he got the check and ditto. . . . Artist Charlie Surendorf, back after drinking all the beer in New Zealand, is hobbling around on a cane, with this novel explanation: "My electric blanket only heats around the edges, so I keep falling out of bed." . . . The magic spell of the Rowan & Martin show: The Bay Bridge Loan Office on Market Street now features a big sign reading "Hock It to Me, Baby!"

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The private lives of our leading citizens: Jessica (Decca) Mitford Treuhaft, doing a book for Alfred Knopf on Dr. Benjamin Spock's forthcoming trial and other tribulations, went to Washington to interview Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, the draft czar. "Well, now," said the General, leaning back, "Spock may be a fine baby doctor, but what does he know about war? It's like me and contour sheets. Mrs. Hershey hasn't been feeling too well, so I've been doing the ironing—and I tell you, I just can't get the hang of ironing a contour sheet. Spock can't figure out the war, I can't figure out contour sheets — it's the same thing."

Morning Report:

That was quite a victory the rampaging students racked up at Columbia University.

For starters, they gave President Grayson Kirk and a good slice of the faculty Excedrin headaches. They proved that a rampaging minority can deny an education, for a while anyway, to an overwhelming majority. The left-wing Students for a Democratic Society, who led the mess, demonstrated that you can't judge an organization by a fine-sounding name.

And, most important of all, the parents, who have been pungling up the stiff tuition fees for their offspring, learned that the campus professionals in handling the younger generation are no better at it than the amateurs at home.

Abe Mellinkoff

SACRAMENTO SCENE

Lawmaker Backs Police Use of Chemical 'Mace'

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO—The current controversy over the use of "Mace," a chemical for riot control, brings a champion for its utilization in Assemblyman Charles J. Conrad, R-Hollywood.

Conrad has long been a student in the use of gas both for warfare and for purposes of controlling riots, and has had experience with the government in that field.

Threats of law suits by so-called human rights organizations, Conrad said, have caused some police departments to cease using the chemical in riot control.

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"Continued reference is made to a report of the surgeon general of the United States, although the report does not cite a single example of permanent injury through the use of Mace," Conrad declared.

In advocating continued use of the chemical, he stated:

"The United States will either allow distrubances to go unchecked, which means anarchy, or law enforcement must be permitted to use force to put down civil disturbances.

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If law enforcement is denied the use of non-lethal chemicals, the alternative will be clubs and guns which can bring about serious injury or death.

"Unfortunately, some individuals, including the members of the medical profession who are political activists, have made statements that understandably raised doubts in the minds of the general public, as well as law enforcement agencies."

Review of Major News On the Sacramento Scene

He pointed out that some people may be allegric to Mace, but not one example of permanent damage has been shown, and said that even if there were a permanent injury, it would have to "be balanced against the number of individuals who might have been injured or killed in riots by clubs, bayonets, or guns.

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"Ancient superstitions," said Conrad, "going back through the centuries which equated the use of chemicals with witchcraft and black magic, exist even in the scientific era of the 20th Century.

"World conditions today are such that we cannot permit these myths to endanger our national security. In every part of our land, and in every state of our society we see a substitution of violence for orderly changes.

"We are close to a blood bath that might, in part, be prevented by the judicious use of non-lethal chemicals."

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All of which brings up the elemental question of why any consideration at all should be given to the rights of persons engaging in the pastime of rioting, destroying property, arson, looting, stealing and later boasting about the lawlessness on television shows.

Certainly, if such people are apprehended and charged with such activities, they are entitled to a court hearing, and punishment after conviction, as that happens to be the way of life in this country.

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An ordered system of society is of little value to the citizen if it cannot be maintained, therefore those who deny constituted authority the tools for maintaining law and order merely compound the felony, and in effect, are as guilty themselves as those who participate in actual rioting.

And prospective rioters need to be brought to a realization that in the long run, they will suffer the consequences of their actions, as an aroused citizenry can be more lethal than the lawless.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Michener Pops Up Again; This Time He's in Spain

Browsing Through the World of Books

Before one tackles an 800-page book on travels in and reflections on Spain, it would help if he had been in the country; perhaps to have shared the emotion of it expressed in the manner of non-Spaniards from Georges Bizet to Ernest Hemingway.

I approach James A. Michener's big book "Iberia" reluctantly. I have never been in the country; I once saw Malaga from the sea, and another time, en route to Oran aboard a British troop transport, was under attack by Luftwaffe planes based in Franco's Las Islas Beleares, which puts me at a disadvantage as a potential reader of this much about Spain.

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Michener, like Hemingway, has an emotional attachment to the peninsula, and has for 40 years since he first visited it during his student years. He has no love for Franco, but before his more recent visits, he asked himself: "Why should I allow Franco to deprive me of a land which is almost as much mine as his?"

With that out of the way, Michener more or less forgets politics and escorts us on a personal, historical, gastronomical, richly varied journal, criss-crossing Iberia from Santillana del Mar to Cadiz, with forays into Portugal (not a Michener enthusiasm). He catches one up in this marathon inside view of the land and its wonderful people.

The book grows on one as we proceed from Badajoz to Toledo, Seville, the mountain fortress of Teruel into the hard, remorseless, poverty-stricken world of provincial Spain. And Madrid, which Michener says used to be one of the most delightful capitals of the world but now has disintegrated into another modern, grotesquely overcrowded place.

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Yet Madrid has the Prado, which remains unchanged, and he guides us through that in an informed, casual manner, lingering at a Durer, or Bosch's "Garden of Delights," a Velasquez, or the brutal, glowing Goyas.

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He does not overstress the bullfighting, yet there is a fine section on Pamplona here, with a hard-core subsection in which, over lunch, he converses with several Hemingway's old local pals, dwelling on the life and death of Don Ernesto and on the controversial Hotchner reminiscences.

Michener displays considerable emotion throughout the book as he dines, observes, smells, recalls, converses, is beguiled and is only occasionaly distressed by the essence of contradictory style of the country; the Spanish Church, for example, which sees as one of its main tasks to save Rome from itself; or the fact Garcia Lorca never spoke Castilian, for one "could not write poetry in it."

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"Iberia" is a portrait of a land by a journalist-reconteur (rather than novelist, in this case) whose enthusiasm for the land is catching, like Hemingway's, who noted the subtleties of it in such detail, "the change in the country as you come down out of the mountains into Valencia in the dusk on the train holding a rooster for a woman who was bringing it to her sister . . ."

Michener is one of the hardest working writers in our pantheon—outsized novels like "Hawaii" and "The Source," and continuous research, Afghanistan to Israel, Pennsylvania to Japan. And now this on Spain, one of the best Micheners I have read.

Quote

Kindness is a language which the blind can see and the deaf can hear.—Fred W. Grown in the Bergen (N.J.) Citizen.

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One advantage of a large vocabulary: it lets you insult the other fellow and get out of range before he realizes it.—William Chaffee.

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The man who does things makes many mistakes but he never makes the biggest mistake of all—doing nothing. —L. O. Sills in the Pond Creek (Okla.) Herald.

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In considering what is the appropriate role of a board in the administration of a licensing program, the central issue is that of representing and protecting the general public interest.—Assemblyman Jack R. Fenton, Montebello.

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