

# Press-Herald

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## Data Banks--Good or Evil

Considerable concern has been expressed over plans for central data banks in which economic and social statistics collected by a multitude of federal agencies would be consolidated and computerized. Ostensibly, the purpose of such banks would be to speed the good works of government. The great fear, however, is that such data, covering nearly every facet of our personal lives, could prove a horrendous weapon in the hands of the wrong person.

When the head of a firm—International Business Machines Corporation—which pioneered the data processing techniques recognizes the potential for evil in those machines, we laymen listen. Laymen listened attentively in San Francisco recently when Thomas J. Watson Jr., chairman of IBM, spoke before the Commonwealth Club of California. Mr. Watson recognized the fact that "no manufacturer can make a data system proof against human corruption." The alternative? "A heavy responsibility falls upon every one of us as citizens to do this: help devise new public policies—laws, ethical codes, standards of business practice—to meet this new public problem."

Eternal vigilance, as has so long been said, surely is the price of liberty.

## A Losing Game

We don't hear so much now about a little inflation being good for the country. We have reached the point where even the most slow-witted should perceive that they can't keep ahead of the game. According to official figures, the U.S. dollar lost 3.5 cents in purchasing power during 1967. This year, economists predict the dollar will suffer an even bigger loss. Federal spending and the huge budget deficit are cited as the principal causes.

During the fourth quarter of 1967, the average per capita income after taxes rose \$33 with all but \$6 of it eaten by inflation. As time goes on, if inflation is not halted, wage and income increases will mean less and less. Keeping up with inflation resembles trying to run alongside an express train as it pulls out of the station. The race should be called off. Inflation should be stopped at its source. Federal spending on limitless welfare programs that will gradually become meaningless as federal budget deficits mount, thus feeding the fires of more inflation, should be brought to an end.

## Opinions of Others

It would be in order for the press to start publicizing the activities of the law-abiding citizen as well as the law-defying ones. In this year of political strife perhaps the aspiring candidates for office may realize that the best support they could desire comes from the people of this country to whom 'law and order' mean just what they represent.—Nantucket (Mass.) Inquirer and Mirror.

Open-minded or empty-headed—it depends on whether you're defining yourself or someone else.—William Chafee in the Walnut (Iowa) Bureau.

In the search for knowledge, you usually find how little you have.—Bob Pearcy in the Danville (Ind.) Gazette.

Life has its disappointments but there is no reason to be one of them.—Joseph M. Shaw Jr., Cherokee County (Ala.) Herald.

A reckless driver is one who passes you in spite of all your car can do.—Dale Holdridge, Langford (S. Dak.) Bugle.

## FROM THE MAILBOX

## District Attorney Urges Respect for Rule of Law

Editor, Press-Herald:

I should like to express my deepest appreciation to the people of Los Angeles County for their vote of confidence in re-electing me to a second term as District Attorney.

That the final tally reached an unprecedented Los Angeles County vote of 1,410,000 votes is not so much a personal victory as an overwhelming mandate to enforce the rule of law. The tragic events follow-

## Morning Report:

The National City Bank of New York flew three tri-colors at its Paris office the other day. If a mighty bank can forgive President de Gaulle and forget the troubles he has caused, so can I. After all, he gave the bankers bigger headaches.

It is true that de Gaulle kicked NATO out of France, needed us in South America, lambasted us for Vietnam, and drained a lot of our gold. But we lived through it. All of that, however, will be nothing if the fellows who are trying to do him in pull it off.

They are a lot less optimistic about succeeding than they were. A few days ago, the story was spreading that he would quit. His enemies hoped he would. He didn't.

Abe Mellinkoff

## Why Do Those Who Weep For Hanoi -



HERB CAEN SAYS:

## His Nibs Wanders Among The Dark, Crawly Things

Night beat: That man wandering around Golden Gate Park at 9:30 the other night—that was Mayor Giuseppe Alioto, making the first of his several "unannounced visits (this one certainly was) to the area that has been described by purple-lipped old ladies as filled with dark and crawly things (tr.: hippies). Reports the Mayor: "It was all most peaceful. I didn't see a thing." A lot of us who use the Park regularly could have saved him the trouble. On many a Saturday, I go out there with my kid, Christopher. We ride the slides and merry-go-round, eat a dumb hot dog, buy peanuts, feed the squirrels in the Arboretum, browse about Hippie Hill, paddle a boat around Stow Lake, join the mobs at the Steinhart Aquarium and have a fine time generally. And I still remember with fondness the sight of a beautiful, long-haired hippie girl tenderly stroking the flanks of a policeman's horse.

Trips on a tripwriter: Hey, how about those six Edsels parked outside Mining Chemist Dick Hall's house south of hert. Truly a weird sight, although the explanation is fairly mundane: he has been collecting them to sell at auction. (You'd be

surprised how many people want an Edsel—it's a reverse status symbol.") What I like better is his definition of a mining chemist: "That's a guy who doesn't know anything about mining and is too lazy to be a chemist."... Author Curt Gentry of Telegraph Hill has delivered a manuscript to Putnam (for fall publication) that many

### Report From Our Man In San Francisco

well turn into the blockbuster of the season. It's titled "The Last Days of the Late Great State of California," a tale set in 1969, when the San Andreas Fault opens and swallows us all. I hate to spoil the ending, but the remaining 49 states have a he-luva time getting along without us and our bounty.

Mixed bag: Bill Moore, the Channel 2 newsmen, is married to Belva Davis, the Channel 5 newswoman—and if he doesn't stop locking her out of the car every time she's called to cover a story, we may have a better story. . . . The Hunters Point Boys Club, running a parking lot on Broadway near Front (courtesy of the Redevelopment Agency), put up a big sign reading "Keep Smiling!" It was promptly stolen, but the kids, still smiling, continue to hand out flowers to everybody who parks there. . . . Breath of scandal: The Russian Hill girl who was playing footsie with that Telegraph Hill boy (married) while her husband was in New York might want to know HEW was joined by a girl who flew in from Europe for the occasion. Always glad to help.

Onward: S.F.'s Bill Graham, the Huron of rock, is taking over the Houston Astrodome late in July for that town's first big rock-and-light show; in case you were thinking of doing likewise, the rent is \$12,000 plus a percentage of the gate. . . . The Jefferson Airplane just bought a beautiful 1904 mansion on Fulton, across from Golden Gate Park and filled with original Tiffany glasswork. The Plane, now big business, will use it for offices and sleeping quarters and install a recording studio in the basement.

File & Forget: The town's "straight" dancers, rendered homeless when the Carousel went rock'n'roll, have a new haven—California Hall's ballroom, renamed the Rose Room in honor of the late Art Hickman, S.F.'s first great bandleader. Music by Society Steppers. . . . Hick-

man, by the way, wrote the all-timer, "Rose Room," while he was at the St. Francis, although the Rose Room is in the Palace, and please tell me you care. . . . As for the square swingers who hang out at the Buena Vista, some of them are now wearing badges labeled "Tonkin Bay Yacht Club." THAT'S funny.

I wonder where I read this: "When we were borrowing customs from older cultures, who was the idiot who passed up the siesta?"

La Triviata: San Francisco scored well in the Obies—the New York off-Broadway theatrical awards that correspond to the on-Broadway Tonys. Among the winners: Michael McClure's "The Beard," and the S.F. Mime Troupe, which seems to make most of its local appearances in court. . . . Bobby Darin's in town, living in a Sausalito houseboat, the current IN thing for visiting celebrities (also shopping for a houseboat: Pianist Erroll Garner). . . . Item of note: Not one of S.F.'s celebrated rock bands performed for any of the candidates in our recent primary because, they say, "We didn't want to get involved." Sfunny. I thought involvement was their bag.

## WILLIAM HOGAN

## Several Books on Israel Published on Anniversary

Bulletin Boards: A number of books on the Soviet Union, its people and history appeared in this country last year during the 50th anniversary of the October revolution. This year a variety of titles on Israel, her people and history, are appearing on the 20th anniversary of that nation's founding. Two at hand are particularly interesting:

"Days of Fire," by Samuel Katz, is the story of Irigum Zvai Leumi, the organization of activist Jews which played a central role in the making of Israel. From its founding in 1937 until its dissolution at the time the State of Israel was proclaimed, the Irigum fought the Arabs, the British and, in some cases, even fellow Jews. The author, a native of Johannesburg and a former member of the Irigum high command, now operates his own publishing house in Tel Aviv (Doubleday; \$5.95).

## SACRAMENTO SCENE

## Rabble Rousing Technique Has Advanced Since 1930s

By HENRY C. McARTHUR  
Capital News Service

SACRAMENTO — Human nature doesn't change much over the years, and neither, it seems, does the pattern of agitation directed against government officials, for the purpose of upsetting their equilibrium and disturbing the daily operations of state activity.

During a period of some forty years, off and on, around the state Capitol, this writer has seen pattern work time and again, and usually with the same result, which is nothing accomplished, except the upsetting of a bomb in some case, and an odiferous residue in the wake of departure.

The so-called "poor people's march" on the state Capitol last week had all the earmarks of a somewhat similar demonstration that occurred in the same area in the early 1930s, when James Rolph Jr., of San Francisco was governor of the state.

Instead of being called a "poor people's march" it was dubbed a "hunger march," as it was held during the depths of the now faded great depression.

This was an era in which government had not as yet graduated to the hand out stage to the extent it has today, and people who had no jobs made it as best they

could, by selling apples on the corners of city streets, taking any kind of work that happened to be offered, or headed for the hills to pan gold, as this writer did.

A group of agitators in Sacramento at that time, which had fomented several incidents in the agricultural areas of neighboring cities, decided it could create a lot more confusion by leading a band of rabble to the state

### Review of Major News On the Sacramento Scene

Capitol. The group had a difficult time raising enough people to make a showing, and finally resorted to recruitment in the city's "lower end."

The demonstration culminated when Governor Rolph appeared on the steps of the Capitol in the same place Governor Reagan confronted the mob scene last week, more than 30 years later.

Rolph was shouted down, booed, hissed and cursed when he tried to talk to the group. Finally he turned and left for his office without having had the opportunity to say a word.

The rabble rousers have advanced in technique quite a bit in the intervening period. Today, they're bolder, bring their stooges into the halls of the Capitol itself,

and have improved their use of invective.

In the earlier days, the newspaper was the only coverage they received on their demonstrations. Today, however, they have the added advantage of radio and television to broadcast their meaningless noise and fanfare.

And too, perhaps officials are more lenient in allowing a mob freer range, as the Rolph police did not let it enter the Capitol at all. Participants had been warned before the action to stay outside.

But whether the techniques are better or worse, it's still the same old pattern designed to create chaos. Last week's demonstrators, however, looked a lot better dressed, and in better physical shape than the mob of more than 30 years ago, and most of them appeared in the over-nourished group.

There's nothing much officials can do about these Communist patterned demonstrations, as it's a "free" country, and people can demonstrate as they choose. Officials could choose to ignore such activity until it's conducted within the recognized rules of petition, but human nature being what it is, this may be too much to ask.

## ROYCE BRIER

## Article IV Still Giving Troubles in Many Cases

Periodically you are puzzled to learn that apparently the police and prosecuting authorities of this country have not read the United States Constitution.

Article IV of the Bill of Rights, coming into force Dec. 15, 1791, reads as follows:

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

Some passages in the Constitution are ambiguous, but this one is crystal clear. It says flatly that if you apply to a judicial officer for a warrant to arrest or search, you must set forth the motive for your application (probable cause). If property is to be seized (as evidence against the suspect), it, and

its location must be described, and the suspect to be arrested must be named.

What is so difficult about this requirement, and what is so strange it could be required?

The police and prosecuting officers of the monarchs of Europe did not have to meet such a requirement. Consequently any person or evidence obnoxious to the monarch or his regime could be seized by stealth and

### Opinions on Affairs of the World

force, usually without any warrant at all.

Thereafter, the suspect had none of the protections enumerated in the other nine amendments. He could be held secretly, with no appeal. Any evidence against him could be altered. His "effects" could be confiscated. Ultimately he might get a trial, but often the trial was closed and rigged, and the defendant was helpless.

Manifestly, nobody has any rights worth mentioning in such a system, and the Founding Fathers were determined to prohibit it in their new republic.

We all know, however, that the police authority, and what is more strange, the lawyers of the prosecution, resent the restraints put upon them by the Fourth and related amendments.

Under pressure to nail some supposed malefactor they sometimes slight or omit one or more of the four indispensable: probable cause, evidence description, location and the person. The shabby "John Doe" warrant is the logical outcome of this insidious official conduct.

Recently, the California Supreme Court, in a rehearing decision, voided about 1.7 million outstanding warrants which in form fail to comply with the Fourth Amendment. The general form has been used for years in California, and doubtless in other states. Some prosecutors complain it is not clear what the court requires, but presumably it could be clarified by reading the Fourth.

Police and prosecutors don't like all this because it makes them extra work. But extra work is always the price of a free society. Submission to an erosion of your rights is easier.

## My Neighbors



"Say—it's been over a month since my promotion came through—how come I still get peanut butter sandwiches?"