

Press-Herald

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Spectre of Big Brother

Wherever you turn, the spectre of centralized authority is moving closer. Urban planners are now talking of a national land bank, which could empower the federal government to acquire land in and around cities and provide for planned development. The reason given for such a move is that as open land in and around metropolitan centers becomes scarcer, public controls over its use must increase.

There is no denying that as the pressure of population grows and land becomes scarcer, the use of real estate in congested areas will be subject to more regulation. But, it would appear that this could be achieved without impairing one of the most fundamental rights of land ownership. This right is symbolized by the old expression "... a man's home is his castle."

When the government begins to acquire land on a massive scale for development as the government thinks best, where is the process to stop? Moreover, the acquisition of land by the federal government around cities would cut off vital sources of tax revenue for local government.

A national land bank is the old story of government ownership all over again. The rights of private citizens are overridden, local independence is undermined and remaining taxpayers must take on a heavier load to make up the loss on another nonproductive government enterprise. There must be a better way to solve today's urban problems.

Our Creative Americans

Have you attempted to assist your youngster with his science homework lately? If you have, you probably have been impressed by the rapid advance in technical knowledge. Actually these advancements in the last twenty years have surpassed the entire previous span of civilization.

For a few current examples: new drugs have reduced diseases to record lows, computers process complicated information in split seconds, satellite communication encompasses the world. It hardly needs to be pointed out that those inventions and discoveries have come essentially through the direct contributions by creative individuals in American industry.

Although this may seem to be obvious, there is a body of opinion maintaining that government will be the major sponsor of invention and innovation in the years to come.

The government of course has a place in research and development. But it should never be forgotten that the general technical pre-eminence of America, whether it be evidenced by the latest work-saving appliances, life-saving drugs, or new products affecting our work and pleasure, has been fostered by the private enterprise system which is the foundation of industrial progress in this country.

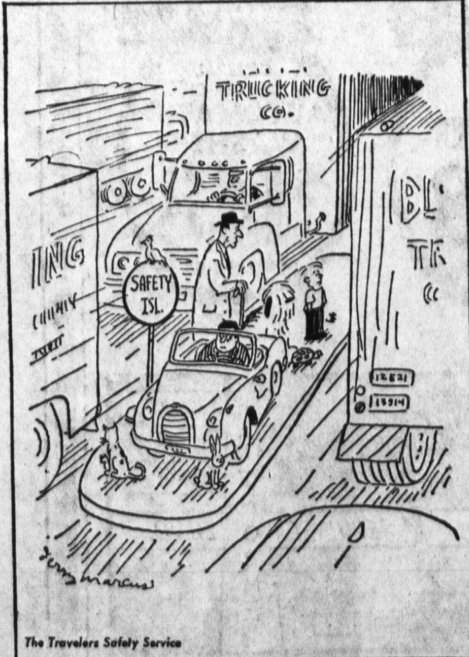
Opinions of Others

Persons who thought they were prize winners later discovered they were obligated to pay nearly \$100 for five- to seven-year subscriptions equal to regular annual rates for the magazines — Attorney General Thomas C. Lynch, in filing suits against fraudulent magazine sales.

Students cannot study when the educational atmosphere is disturbed by riots, violence, and illegal acts. And certainly they cannot attend classes when their schools are closed by a number of off-campus troublemakers.—Assemblyman Don Mulford (R-Piedmont).

You are actually being taxed to provide better medical care for these card holders than you can afford for yourself or your family.—Gov. Ronald Reagan, on "free credit card" aspect of Medi-Cal.

Was It Sudden? Jerry Marcus



The Travelers Safety Service
Traffic accidents killed 52,500 and injured 4,400,000 in 1966.

Killing By the Water Torture

THOUSANDS
OF
REPEATED
VIOLATIONS
BY
NORTH
KOREAN
REDS



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Accordionist Squeezed Out of This Orchestra

San Francisco's internationally-renowned all-girl topless orchestra—for obvious reasons, no accordion—has left for an engagement at the Colony Club in Dallas, and this is interesting on two counts. The Colony is the late Jack Ruby's old club. And the topless orchestra calls itself The Ladybirds. I have a feeling they won't be welcome in Johnson City. The anti-Gaule feeling is so fierce around here at the moment that Herb Emery, owner of Chez Marguerite, is advertising that his restaurant serves "French Food in the Style of Louis XIV and Earlier" . . . On the other hand, this appeared in big black letters in the window of a local travel agency: "The Loudest Way to Say to Hell with LBJ Is to Book for Europe This Very Day (And Make it First Class All the Way!)" . . . After reading the headline: "Reagan to Stay Home and Try Harder," Assemblyman Carl Brischgi turned to his secretary and inquired: "Irma, is there something going on I don't know about?" Secty. Irma Harder merely dimpled and rolled her eyes suggestively.

Fog closed the Sacramento airport the other day, whereupon passengers scheduled for a United flight were driven back to town. As they settled down in the bus, United's Don Walters beamed: "Thanks for flying United and leaving the driving to us!" . . . Via air mail from Faison C. Jordan III, stationed with the 20th Engineers in Vietnam: "Personally, I don't believe in non-violent organizations—I've just been beaten up by Quakers" . . . Speaking of the war, I can't

shake the line I heard on a newscast shortly after the first of the year: "Fighting returned to normal after New Year's truce." Proving again the wisdom of that fine old observation: truce is stronger than friction.

In the Dept. of banal and boring annual happenings, I suppose you noticed that Lynda Bird Johnson Robb

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

made this year's Best Dressed List, a press agent stunt that always gets a lot of ink, including this. She rated ninth in a field of 12, which isn't great but better than nothing—and beside's there's a San Francisco angle: Lynda Bird buys most of her things, her trousseau among them, from Joseph Magnin's, whose President, Cyril Magnin, modestly declines any credit, "She has always known her own mind and had good taste," he announced in a modest press release of his own that stressed "her loyalty to JM." Good taste is where you find it.

Out at S.F. Airport, Jim Oney heard an only-in-San Francisco announcement over the public address system: "Will the lady or gentleman who lost an earring on United Flight 15 please report to" etc. etc. . . . As for Dean Webber, he went to a hippie party where somebody proposed a toast to peace, whereupon all chorused: "I'll smoke to that!" . . . Carol Doda, San Francisco's first and most outstanding topless queen, opens at the Encore Theater here this week as Sadie Thompson in "Rain"—so I asked one of

Morning Report:

A lot of people argue that the Gallup Poll isn't accurate but everybody must agree that the latest one is poignant—as touching as a best-selling novel.

As could be expected, nearly 80 per cent of us taxpayers are opposed to Mr. Johnson's 10 per cent boost in our income taxes. But at the same time 94 per cent of us believe that taxes will go up this year anyway. It's touching. Here we are living in a democracy—one man, one vote and all that jazz—yet we are sure we will be plucked even closer although we are firmly against it. But we are not dismayed, not at all. For, according to the poll, most of us believe that we will be living higher on the hog this year.

The picture of Mr. American unfolds. Against taxes but heroically resigned to paying them. And cheerful to the end—sure things will get better.

Abe Mellinkoff

AFFAIRS OF STATE

Demo Leader Asks Fewer Restrictions on Handouts

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — Liberalization of California's social insurance laws continues to be the trend of legislation submitted by the ultra left wing Democrats, as evidenced by measures introduced by Assemblyman John L. Burton, D-San Francisco. In a series of bills pertaining to unemployment insurance and the processes of dealing with agricultural labor, Burton falls back on the three-decade quest of labor organizations to include farm workers under the program. At every legislative session since 1935, when the state adopted the program advanced by the federal government, labor has sought the inclusion of farm workers, without success.

In addition, the Burton bills would increase costs of virtually all commodities to consumers of the state, by unemployment insurance payment to eligible workers. The total bill for this social insurance is borne by employers who are forced to raise prices to meet the bill every time benefits are increased.

Burton, whose legislative district consists of an urban area with no farm problems in it, takes up

the cudgels for the farm worker with the support of the AFL-CIO labor organization, which has spearheaded the 30-year drive to inflate retail prices by raising the giveaway to unemployed workers.

It has been shown in the past by competent testimony before legislative committees that inclusion of farm workers under the program would amount to little

more than a subsidy for farmers, who do not want the government subsidy. It also has been shown that the program for farm workers would be virtually impossible to administer efficiently.

Burton wants to include not only farm workers, but also domestic workers, and government employees under the program. Should the program include government employees, who now are recipients of fringe benefits above and beyond those granted workers in most private employment, the public would foot the entire bill, as the public is the employer.

Original purposes of unemployment insurance have been, somewhat lost in the

years labor has had no legislative thought in mind but to increase benefits and make it easier for the recipient to collect from the unemployment insurance fund. The primary purpose of the program was to provide insurance for workers unemployed through no fault of their own, it was not to subsidize industry, nor to provide benefits when work was available.

Burton in another bill also wants to raise costs to employers by counting tips and gratuities as wages, on which the employer would have to pay additional taxes.

Further, he seeks a compulsory plan for collective bargaining on the part of farm workers, which legislation has been defeated for several legislative sessions. And more of his bills would encourage collective bargaining for public employees, which in the long run would lead to their right to strike and disrupt the entire machinery of government.

Virtually all the Burton measures are measures which have been decided by the legislature in the past, negatively. Bringing them up again does little but promote discord in the economic scene.

ROYCE BRIER

Testers' Curiosity Jars One Sixth of the Nation

It is not clear by what standard of necessity, let alone common sense, the Atomic Energy Commission, on increasing scale, creates an artificial earthquake shaking half a million square miles, a sixth of the area of the United States, inhabited by 25 million people.

Such an event was triggered in the Nevada desert recently by an underground nuclear blast of about one megaton, alarming thousands who were under restrictive orders of doubtful legality in some cases.

The nuclear mass was lodged in solid rock at 3,200 feet. When it was detonated the ground over it heaved upward. A few seconds later the shock waves were perceptible up to 700 miles away. They were strong in Las Vegas, fairly strong in Fresno, felt in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Salt Lake City.

Within a 100-mile radius windows, plaster and bridge concrete were cracked. AEC

had warned of danger in mines and ground movement affecting high buildings. Some in towns near ground zero kept their children from school, and sat in their automobiles on the theory tires would absorb the shock.

Distant seismographs recorded the blast, and a Richter scale of 6.25 was

Opinions on Affairs of the World

read at the University of California, Berkeley. This was a fairly heavy quake, and the same scale in a natural quake will damage buildings in urban areas near epicenter.

You might think the explanation for such an experiment of such caliber would deal with the national security, or some great scientific goal which needed approach. But we are told the motive for the test was simple curiosity — to learn if bigger explosions can be

staged at AEC's permanent Nevada site.

If this seems a little trivial compared with the phenomenon itself, you must note the AEC technologists view the matter quite casually, as they don't live in the area. They just go there.

They'll be looking around the site for a month, gathering data. But they won't let you know much about what they find, apparently in the Washington bureaucratic theory that people just clutter up an environment, though they must be borne patiently.

Back in the 1960s there was both necessity and common sense in nuclear experiment. We won't soon forget those houses bursting into flames at some distance from an atomic blast. In the Pacific we had to know what the hydrogen bomb would do, because our antagonists also had the bomb. Out of it came knowledge that heat and radiation fallout was as perilous as the impact.

But treaty now forbids above-ground tests, and fallout is rare.

It may be doubted, from a constitutional viewpoint, if the people must be inconvenienced, and even imperiled, by these assaults on the ground they walk on, for no better reason than to learn how much of it they will tolerate. But of course it is futile to remonstrate with a closed little empire like AEC. Its function is private authoritarian, and you only pungle up the billions; you don't ask irritating questions.

Alan Grey Says . . .

Prime Minister Harold Wilson . . .
Was seeking world peace . . .
With Russian intervention . . .
With the North Vietnamese . . .
He took a trip to Moscow . . .
And there, was frankly told . . .
The chance was like the weather . . .
Just very, very cold . . .
This was not unusual . . .
And Wilson knows the score . . .
With his domestic problems . . .
He's been rebuffed before.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Newest British Imports To Please Fantasy Fans

The Tolkien Trilogy, "The Lord of the Rings," has been such a great success in this country (especially in paperback, and among younger readers) that another large import of British fantasy seemed predictable. It has arrived on these shores as "The Gormenghast Trilogy," a work of some 1,400 pages, by an Englishman named Mervyn Peake, who was better known as an artist and illustrator before he set down these dark literary dreams.

The first volume, "Titus Groan," appeared in England more than 20 years ago; the second, "Gormenghast," in 1950, and the third, called "Titus Alone," was, we understand, never finished by the author, who has been seriously ill and incapacitated for some time. It was patched up by his publishers in an effort to complete what British critics have found to be a major, if eccentric literary work. It never reached a commercial success abroad, but the new American publishing house

of Weybright & Talley is betting that this exercise in imagination will strike a response among followers of "The Lord of the Rings." One of the problems, first off, is the price tag on the three volumes, \$20, which is not likely to entice consumers of the Tolkien trilogy in paperback.

Peake's marathon fantasy

Browsing Through the World of Books

is less gay than Tolkien's, although the scholarship is evident and weighty throughout. Titus Groan is the last in a long line of Earls in the mythical and crumbling kingdom of Gormenghast. We watch Titus grow into manhood, and along the way meet characters with such names as Steerpike, Rottcodd, Swelter and Sourdst. Humans are most always villains here, and the narrative is concerned with murder, treachery, dark ritual and decay of the kingdom.

This is not a happy tale, but it is a heroic and dedicated labor of love. To consume the whole thing would probably involve a labor of love on the part of the reader. I must admit I had not that much love to invest in "The Gormenghast Trilogy."

A more reasonably priced entertainment, also from England, is "The Nice and the Good," the new Iris Murdoch novel (Viking; \$5.75). This is a less gothic tale than "Gormenghast," and a less than usual Iris Murdoch gothic tale. It is a family story, for the most part, very English, which turns into a Murdoch-style highbrow thriller with a black mass thrown in, along with other suggestions of the power of darkness. Miss Murdoch is not one to write merely a family story, of course, and when she does it is stylish and eerie, and a little erotic. As always, she performs with authority, and her large American audience will not be disappointed in "The Nice and the Good."