Your Right to Know Is the Key to All Your Liberties -Comment and Opinion -

TORRANCE, CALIF., WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1968

Trouble With the Mails

Probably no other case in the history of man can compare to the bungled mess which has developed in the postal system.

One of the nation's most vital communication facilities, and the only one easily available to millions of Ameri cans, is nearing the point of flounder ing in its own sea of confusion.

If one of the modern think fac tories set its most creative team to work trying to devise a worse system. the project would surely fail.

And when the money gets too thin to subsidize the minimum level of service now offered, the only cure ap pears to be a further reduction in mail service.

The first major impact of the re duction in postal service will hit this weekend when Saturday window ser vice at all first and second class post offices will be discontinued. This means that thousands of us in the Southwest and Harbor areas and millions of Americans who have been obliged by employment or other obli gations to do our post office business on Saturday will now have to find other means of mailing packages, buying stamps, and of registering, certifying or insuring mail.

It also will mean, probably, that many thousands will react to this curtailment of service by writing to their Congressman-which is just what the top echelon postal officials must expect

In most such cases, it appears that the agency involved always makes the cuts where it hurts most. Congress is abused by the citizens, and the cuts are restored.

Many have offered what they fee is a better suggestion: Give up the boondoggling, inefficient, wasteful, and costly government operation of the postal system and turn it over to a chartered corporation. Such a corporation should then be given a free hand to introduce automation and such other improvements as needed to res cue us from the current plight.

Whatever, the nation cannot continue to run a constantly deteriorating mail service on a parttime basis (there is now talk of cutting deliveries to four a week). The mail system is too important to all of us and must be salvaged.

Summer's Added Perils

With summer in full swing, community fire departments are facing increased problems, and problems

peculiar to our hot, dry weather. Needless grass fircs endanger homes and cost taxpayers dollars for the manpower and equipment needed to protect lives and property from this type of blaze.

As the grass lands diminish with community growth, and with working weed abatement programs, the hazard may be reduced but it is not yet eliminated. A blazing grass fire Sunday evening on Western Avenue near Lomita gave billowing evidence that the fire season is with us.

Each property owner should be aware of the hazards presented on his own parcel of land and take steps to eliminate those hazards. Tall, dry

Morning Report

For those who like things as they are, the American Communist Party has to be the most reassuring institu-tion around. Other groups and parties show great change as conditions change. But the Communists go right on doing their not-so-sly business as usual.

At their national convention in New York City the other day, the New Left was given its lumps for indulging in "petty bourgeois radicalism." What ever that means.

In keeping with clandestine tradition, the capitalist press was barred from hearing the major address. So nobody listened except already dedicated party members and FBI agents, whom I trust were present behind the closed doors with their tape recorders. Just in case anything new in the disorder line was being peddled.

-Abe Mellinkoff

Help Open the Gate

weeds, scrap lumber piled against a building, and other such conditions pose a particular threat at this time of the year.

If fire poses one threat to us in the summer heat, water poses another

Living as we do in communities within a short distance of excellent beaches and in a climate where home swimming pools are a common item, the area's firemen are called frequently for rescue or resuscitation services Excellent classes are offered through area fire departments and persons interested in learning skills in first aid. and fire safety are urged to contact their nearest station.

The fireman is always our friend, but with the extra peril of summer's hot dry weather and the inviting cool water, the fireman takes on a special role. We can make his job easier by cleaning up our own fire hazards, and adhering to safe practices in the water.

An Afterthought

As one thinks over the present condition of the nation's mail system, it occurs that it is about the only business that comes to mind where the top executives and all the branch managers are picked-not because they are experts in the business-but because of favors to their Congressmen, past or promised.

From Our Mailbox

Liked Story To the Editor:

Your charming and well written article of Dr. and Mrs. Baxter's wedding was immensely enjoyed by the couple, our residents and staff. Thank you four your time, pictures and for being here on the Baxter's wedding You added that special air of day. importance with your presence and we want you to know we appreciate

it. I was very much impressed with Another School Door



SACRAMENTO REPORT

State Gun Control Bill Given Strange Handling

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR blyman Winfield A. Shoe-SACRAMENTO - Some maker, D-Santa Barbara, maker, D-Santa Barbara, was sent to the assembly criminal procedures com-mittee. This committee eliminated the clause in the Shoemaker bill calling for registration of all guns in the state. It approved licensing of gun owners and highly peculiar antics were engaged in by the Assembly ways and means committee in connection with the amendments to the Shoe-maker gun control bill it amended and then recom-mended for passage by the Assembly licensing of gun owners, and thereby set the policy to be submitted to the entire As-Assembly, Theoretically, at least, bills are sent to the ways

and means committee for and means committee for the express purpose of de-termining whether or not there are sufficient funds available to fund the meas-ures if they are adopted. Many times it has been em-bacied that colling is as phasized that policy is set by the original committee to which the bill was sent, and that approval of ways and means is only an indication that monies are avail-

him to propose an amend ment in ways and means to bring the bill back to its original intent, would have been "unethical." able to pay the bills. Originally the gun legisla-tion, authorized by Assem So instead of Shoemaker

proposing the policy-making changes in the measure, for for which policy was af-fixed by the criminal procedures committee, Assem-blyman Charles Warren, D-Losc Angeles, took on the job. Warren happens to be chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, an organization intensely interested in seeing Shoe-maker returned to the Assounded to the entrie As-senibly for approval, pro-vided ways and means found there were sufficient funds to finance the licensing, or determined licensing would sembly to help maintain the Democratic majority.

☆☆☆ Warren and Shoemaker had an ally in the chairman We committee, Robert W. Crown, D-Alameda, Ear-lier in the session Crown lost a reasonably tough gun control bill in the crim-All of which was distaste-ful to Author Shoemaker, who wanted gun registra-tion in the bill. But he rec-ognized the fact that for inal procedures committee, whose chairman, W. Craig Biddle, R-Riverside, had his own measure affecting firearms, making penalties on illegal use heavier. Thus the stage was set for a Democratic-Republican

battle, with the Democrate republican battle, with the Democrates having sufficient votes to put the Shoemaker bill back in virtually its original form. After hearing argu-ments pro and con, the com-mittee relived into secret mittee retired into secret session with the measure under submission, and shortly went back into open session, where it approved the measure by a voice voice voice the measure by a voice vote.

Considering a bill in se-cret session deprives the public of knowing how their representatives vote on the measure, and outside of educated guesses, the public will never know how the members of ways and means voted on Shoemakmeans voted on Shoemak-er's gun control measure. With elections coming up, it is only natural for the politicians to seek secrecy on controversial issues, on controversial issues, which may have a bearing on whether they return to their plush jobs in Sacramento.

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HERB CAEN SAYS:

These Hikers Going by Bus

Barney and Irene Mayes, who own Meiggs Wharf, are fond of hippies-but, when they commute daily from Sausalito in their Continental, they refuse to pick up hippie hitchhikers. Instead, they had out Greyhound communte tickets, which they buy by the roll. Explains Irene prettily: "I may be my brother's keeper, but I don't have to be his chauffeur." . . . Meet the new owners of Del Vecchio's on B'way: Joe the Toe Vetrano, the Condor's Pete Mattiolo, Tipsy's Pee Wee Ferrari. I think it will remain Italian. . . . Everybody's a comic these days. Agnes Flynn, wife of Col. Tom Flynn, phoned all the airlines for her son, Tom, who wanted the cheapest flight East. After hearing TWA's fare, she cracked: "Well, how much if we just nail him to a wing?" Deadpanned the voice of TWA: "Sorry, ma'am, that throws the plane off balance and increases fuel consumption." Which is probably true.

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The texture of San Francisco is subtle: a sudden amalgam of great wealth (largely plucked from the earth) and prideful poor (the South o' the Slot syndrome), a tolerance for "characters" that is only now threatening to stop short at the hippies, an Oriental-French-Italian-bohemian blend of eating and living, a taste for extremes that could only have been born in a seaport town that became a gold-gorged metropolis overnight.

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It is almost impossible to explain the fabric of the city without digging into the past; this is one of the city's strengths and one of its hang-ups. There is enough evidence that our predecessors built and lived well to make us try to emulate them while sensing that we never can-and anyway, where do the legends stop and the fables begin? We should be grateful that we have reputation for "tolerance"; the Chinese of Dennis Kear-ney's time knew the ugly truth, not to mention the Chinese in the gold fields who were killed for sport. We didn't have a "Negro problem" until recent years because we had so few Negroes, and as for the Japanese, the memories of "relocation centers" are all too fresh (the few San Franciscans who protested at the time may still feel proud). Certainly there is a greater awareness of complexities around us, and a firmer resolve to confront them. We know now that there is more to San Francisco than the naive, non-ironic, fog-through-theharpstrings-of-the-bridge approach.

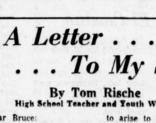
It is impossible to "explain" San Francisco, in the end, without ackowledging the "foreignness" of the city-the Italian of North Beach, the Chinese and Japanese, the Irish of the Mission, the Russians of Clement, and, definitely yes, the Negroes and the hippies. The San Franciscan, no matter how waspish, cannot help but be continually aware of diverse voices, viewpoinnts and life styles-they surround him daily and daily smooth his square edges. The true voice of the city speaks in many tongues, from the Italianate lisp of the Mayor to the Australian lilt of Harry Bridges, from the French-Canadian roar of Trader Vic to the Irish brogue of that great old red-faced Police Sergeant who scoots around town on his three wheeler, bullying and beautiful.

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Or maybe there is no explaining San Francisco, just as there is no accounting for tastes. Let's put it down as a happy accident, this conglomeration of reasonably sympathetic souls thrown together at one of the pleasanter ends of the earth.

The talktail lounge: Frank Dunnigan means to asperse no aspersions, "but why is it every time Fire Buff Arthur Fiedler comes to town, we have a four-alarm fire?"... Donald Bennett of Benicia: "Can you tell me how to get some of the wonderful waters the beer people all advertise? I don't care much for beer but the water sounds good."... Charles Anderson of Sacramento, Calif.: "If you think the front of the dollar bill is hip (George Washington wearing a Nehru and jabot), what about the back? Straight surrealism! An eye in a triangle floating above a truncated pyramid. Personally, I think it's an ad for a new rock group, the Novus Ordo Seclorum, at the annuit Coeptis ballroom." . . Charles Pierce at the Gilded Cage: "If Candy Bergen married Herb Caen and then Lane Bryant, would she be Candy Caen Lane? . . Alex Bergman, as his doctor was reading the slip produced by the



Dear Bruce: What is success? to arise to his regular du-ties the next day. He was organizer, friend, idea man, and counsellor, with duties ranging from deciding how many jars of peanut butter campers would eat to try-ing to talk people out of commiting suicide. A second major factor in Joe's succes is something I suppose you'll hear many definitions of that word, but your dad always remembers one which he had to memorize as a class

assignment: "Not how did he die, but how did he live? Not what did he gain, but

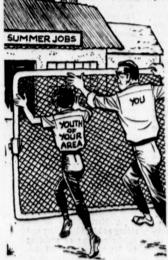
Not what did he gain, but Joe's success is something what did he give? called "charisma" or "soul" These are the units to a personal magnetism that measure the worth of a attracted and uplifted a

man As a man regardless of

wide variety of people. With an almost eternal optimism, he restored hope to many birth. Not what was his station, who had given it up. Be-nor what was his creed, cause he believed the best

... To My Son By Tom Rische High School Teacher and Youth Worker to arise to his regular du-

pay for itself.



your friendly welcome your Mr. Fisher and your office gave me when I picked up the extra pictures and the newspapers.

Thank you, Miss Cloyd, and Mr. Fisher and your company.

MRS. JANET SWAIN **Recreational Director Golden Hours Convalescent Hospitals**

Profanity Hit

To the Editor:

Dick Tripp's editorial, "Public Profanity, a Protected Right," is the best article I've read in quite a while.

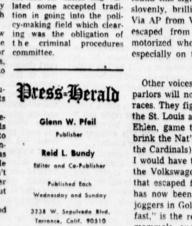
As soon as the public is enlightened to the fact that the Congress can override a Supreme Court decision by a two-thirds vote, the public will be rid of one-sided rulings.

GENE TRINKLER, Lomita

But had he befriended those really in need. ot what did the sketch in the newspaper say, But how many were sorry when he went away In these terms, one of the In these terms, one of the most successful people 1 know is Joe Wilcox, Tor-rance's YMCA secretary, who'll leave next month to take a job in Thailand. He'll be honored in cere-monies at the Torrance Y this Sunday. this his Sunday. In his 12 years here, he brought a nearly dead YMCA back to life and made it one of the leading influences for good in the community. How? A main Wilcox characteristic is "desire" or "drive" and sheer hard work. It's no exaggeration to say that he often literally worked that? day and night, sometimes You counselling people with guys. problems most of the night

of people, they frequently performed that way for him. He seemed a pillar of sta-bility — almost a bit old-fashioned — in a rapidly changing world filled with uncertaintice In any event, the ways and means committee tranuncertainties. He constantly sought new answers to problems. If he didn't always solve them or come up with right answers, he tried hard enough to score many direct hits. He's a good guy and thou-sands of Torrance residents will miss him. As one eight-year-old de-clared (and I think that kids frequently come closer to the truth than windy banquet speakers), "He was really interested in me. He really listened and didn't consider me a pest. I never felt that before. How about Yours for successful good

YOUR DAD



electro-cardiograph machine: "Just one question, doctor do you call that a ticker tape?" ... And Philip Oakes found this sign in the Tokyo IBM office: "Man-slow, slovenly, brilliant. IBM-fast, accurate, stupid." . . . Via AP from Ventura, Calif.: "Richard G. Mendex, 26, escaped from the Ventura County Hospital in his motorized wheelchair." One can only wish him luck, especially on the freeways.

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Other voices, other rumors: The Lake Tahoe betting parlors will no longer make book on the major league races. They figure that it's allover but the shouting for the St. Louis and Detroit rooters. (However, Atty. Jack Ehlen, game to the end; thinks a single trade would brink the Nat'l League pennant to S.F .- the Giants for the Cardinals). ... As a veteran bumper strip pollster, I would have to say that Eugene McCarthy has tied up the Volkswagen vote. . . Wildlife note: A wolverine that escaped from the S.F. Zoo a couple of weeks ago has now been sighted several times by early-morning joggers in Golden Gate Park ("Orangy-brown and very fast," is the report). Wolverines like bird's eggs, small mammals, and to be left alone.