

Burns Walks Tightrope in Senate Assignments

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
SACRAMENTO — (CNS) — With somewhat admirable finesse, Senator Hugh M. Burns, D-Fresno, president pro-tem of the senate, and as such, chairman of the powerful rules committee in that house, handled committee assignments for the 1969 session in a manner designed to "keep everybody happy."

An unenviable job of this kind can hardly reach its objective, for no matter how the assignments turn out, not every senator

is going to be happy. For there are 20 committees and 39 senators, which means that nearly half of the senators will not be chairman of a committee.

However, Burns was confronted with several problems, among them being the Republican majority in the senate, maintaining the time-honored seniority system, and the individual wants and desires of the senators.

Burns' position as president pro-tem hung in the balance on the committee appointments. Failure to give the Republicans

a majority could have resulted in a GOP coalition with the so-called "Young Turks," who were trying to unseat the veteran legislator anyhow.

In addition, he faced problems with the governor's office, as traditionally, the governor has been accorded the privilege of selecting the chairman of the finance committee, which handles his budget.

But a senator with all the "whiskers," Randolph Collier, Democrat from Yreka, wanted this chairmanship, and was entitled to it if the seniority system

was to be maintained. The governor's office agreed to Collier, so he got the coveted chairmanship, reportedly after assurance that the governor's bills would go through the committee.

Another hassle came up over the education committee, headed by Senator Albert S. Rodda, D-Sacramento. Burns left Rodda as chairman, and also named a Democrat, Senator James Wedworth as vice-chairman, but filled out the committee with a Republican majority, which keeps the GOP faction reasonably

happy. The upshot of the committee organization is that the Republicans came up with 12 chairmen out of 20, and a Republican majority on 12 committees, some of which have Democratic chairmen. Thus, it is assured that there will be Republican majority control in line with the GOP majority in the senate, of the committee set-up.

In addition to accomplishing this solution, Burns did not neglect the younger element in the senate, which grew in strength

after reapportionment. He made Senator Al Song, D-Monterey Park, chairman of the business and professions committee. Senator Song is comparatively speaking a "new-comer" to the senate, his seniority dating only to 1967. However, he has shown ability in handling legislation. Song's step up the ladder is an indication that the policy of bringing up the capable younger members to take the place of the old guard as it disappears over the years, will be followed,

at least as long as Senator Burns is in the driver's seat.

The senate for many years has been highly regarded in the legislative field as the body which can be depended on to maintain an even balance in making California's laws, and has been more interested in the quality of legislation than in the foibles of partisanship.

The committee selections this year are an indication that it is going to maintain this attitude for the benefit of the people of California.

Comment and Opinion

A-4 PRESS-HERALD FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1969

A Needed Change

The City Council, spurred by Mayor Albert Isen, has formally opened a bid to obtain Torrance mailing addresses for all residents of the city. The new move, formalized by resolution this week, opens again a question which has bothered a large number of civic boosters for many years.

The Press-Herald endorses the move and recommends that those residents of the city whose mail address is that of another community submit to the inconvenience of changing addresses and join their own community in all respects.

A number of cogent reasons for seeking the change has been advanced by the city's resolution, and Mayor Isen spelled several of them out for the large group of community leaders attending the Chamber of Commerce "Outlook 1969" program Thursday.

Many residents lack identity with the city in which they are entitled to vote and participate in community and civic affairs.

Distribution of sales taxes and in lieu taxes on basis of residency can be and is oftentimes confused.

Assignment of emergency equipment and personnel is often delayed while it is determine which city has jurisdiction.

Rerouting of mail addressed to Torrance residents through the postoffice of adjacent communities is commonplace, causing delays.

A collateral move, Mayor Isen points out, is the bid of the new city of Carson to establish its own Post Office, now served largely by Torrance Post Office.

Both endeavors deserve vigorous support from the resident involved.

Bright Outlook

Whatever the outlook for the nation's retailers, home builders, and bankers in the new year — and most agree it's bright — Torrance should continue to boom in all areas on its own.

That was the promising consensus of experts in those and other fields Thursday as the Chamber of Commerce gathered top men in the area to offer community leaders their forecasts for 1969.

Torrance should continue to expand rapidly as a retail and banking center, a large number of dwelling units have already been approved for 1969, and the city's growth should go on unstinted.

Such optimism is contagious, and we are convinced that most of those attending the two-hour symposium here left with the same feeling we did:

The new year should be another of the city's benchmark years in growth and development. We are pleased to be a part of it all.

Other Opinions

People should be warned not to get too excited about this talk of turning the Post Office Department over to a "private-enterprise-like corporation." In the first place, there isn't any such thing; either government stays in control with the resultant breakdown of service, or private enterprise is given an opportunity to show what it can do with no government strings attached.—*Aztec (N.M.) Independent-Review.*

Of all the manifestations of public ingratitude, few surpass the growing practice of attacking firemen in the performance of their duty. This is no local phenomenon. It occurs in cities across the country . . . Firemen willingly take the risks that go with their hazardous calling in order to save lives and property. What savagery prompts bystanders to attack them while so doing is a matter better left to the alienists.—*Towanda (Pa.) Review.*

The federal government has come up with some bizarre ideas, but little to compare with the latest plan for auto safety cooked up by the new Department of Transportation. It would require all drivers to keep logbooks like airplane pilots so that used car buyers would know of the vehicle's maintenance and accident record. This would work about as well as four flat tires. Drivers who get themselves into trouble by forgetting to get gasoline at the last service station or ignoring that puddle of oil on the garage floor aren't likely to keep a log faithfully.—*Harrisonburg (Va.) News-Record.*

He's an Obstacle to Freedom, Man!



WILLIAM HOGAN

Sweeping Look at French Birth Pangs Is Revealing

There is an awfully good book about contemporary France available. "The New French Revolution," by John Ardagh, who for some years was the Paris correspondent of The Times of London. This is an arresting, in-depth, intelligent, endlessly interesting analysis of France as she passes through a more difficult period of transition than almost any other Western country. Not all the present symptoms are happy ones (a decline of "Frenchness," for one thing), a fact that has been driving many Francophiles, including the author, to despair.

This seems to me one of the important books of the new year, a sweeping survey of

Browsing Through the World of Books

everything French (from giant-scale planning for Paris in the year 2000 to the rise of supermarkets and decline of the national cuisine) up to and including implications of the student disturbances and general strike of last spring.

The "revolution" of Ardagh's title refers to the long-term process of economic and social change, not the dramatic uprisings of 1968 (a new 1789, he suggests). As published in England, the book did not contain the chapter written for the American edition on the 1968 crisis—a period when the French went "joyfully and creatively mad."

Ardagh sees that uprising as an acute symptom of an overall "social mutation," a condition which profoundly affects education, youth, intellectuals, the arts, religion, industry, housing, just about everything including the production of wine and the work of cine-poets.

So this book is about French society, about the lives of

Frenchmen, ordinary and otherwise, not about Gaullist politics. It is based on Ardagh's extensive interviews and perceptive observations (although his bibliography is extremely large). It reflects a love-hate relationship with what he calls the "stimulating and exasperating" French.

Ardagh is particularly harsh on the arts, literature and philosophy of contemporary France. The saddest aspect of

Quote

I am a lucky man. I feel as fit as a horse. — Dr. Philip Blaiberg on anniversary of heart transplant.

You have reminded me of my strength, of my background. With that knowledge, I can't let you down and I won't let you down, and we will be a better country for it.—President-Elect Richard Nixon at Anaheim celebration.

I will know and God will know how I vote. But I will try to keep the man on my left and right in the caucus from knowing.—Sen. Lee Metcalf of Montana before Senate Democratic caucus.

The present system for electing our Presidents is not only anachronistic, it is an open invitation to chaos.—Assemblyman Jess Unruh.

Birds are creatures of habit. They get used to looking for food in certain spots. People who begin feeding birds in warmer weather have a moral responsibility to keep it up when it gets cold.—Dr. William J. Beecher, director of the Chicago Academy of Sciences.

the Parisian intellectual world today, he reports, is its air of conventionality, perhaps influenced by the Gaullist political climate, or by some ill-digested modernism which is infecting all French society, if perhaps only temporarily. He senses the loss of French originality on many fronts.

France no longer appears to be the cultural champion of the West; its economic and social resurgence has gone hand in hand with this ominous intellectual and artistic decline (including a withering of the Sartrean movement). Ardagh is quite high on French cinema, however, which he finds is still the most creative in Europe.

What he really finds in this study is that the French are becoming, in their leisure habits as well as technology (often reluctantly patterned on the American), more and more like other people. The Germans, for instance, or the English. The snob appeal in French advertising is reflected in a new "lingua Franca," which is English. Not a promising report for traditional Francophiles, but, Ardagh suggests, the hint of the new France, a sign of a dynamic society, not a stagnant one.

At the turn of the century, could it be the modern college has become in effect a computer? That is, has it become a technical system wholly removed from the turn of this century, when even famous universities were small, intimate associations of teachers and students?

Or: it is possible this hypothetical development is at the root of the student-teacher revolt which is sweeping America, and through the halls of higher education across the world?

Morning Report

Maybe it's time for the United Nations to go into another line of work. Something more modest than trying to prevent wars from starting and then failing to stop them after they are underway.

I suggest as an opener that the U.N. do something about the hijacking of airplanes. It has become very plain that sovereign nations can't do anything. Maybe the U.N. can. Even failure would do nothing to worsen their current record in the war and peace business.

Let's see. The U.N. is now working with spectacular lack of success on the wars in Yemen, the near East, Nigeria, and Vietnam. All are deadly. As soon as the first hijacked plane crashes, everybody will have a solution. The U.N. can get in on the ground floor today.

Abe Mellinkoff

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Demon PR Whiz Has Ink Flowing for His Client

And did you know that death threats are "normal" these days? Neither did I till I had a talk with Mike Teilmann the demon public relations whiz.

Mike is the 38-year-old Sausalito who has been hired by W. Clement Stone, the Chicago insurance millionaire, to guide Stone's friend, Prof. Hayakawa, through the maze and mysteries of meeting the mixed media on a day-to-day basis. Stone pays Mike's considerable salary, and Mike has an office at S.F. State—although it strikes me that advising Hayakawa on public relations is like telling Onassis how to make money.

Nevertheless, Mike is doing okay. Shortly after he took the job, the Gallup Poll listed Prof. Hayakawa as "Educator of the Year." It's not often you can get that kind of ink for a client on such short notice: the year in question was 1968 and the Prof. didn't make it into the national headlines till November something, via the tam o'shanter-wirepulling route.

But about the threats. Monday morning at 6, Mike drove up to Prof. Hayakawa's house in Mill Valley, to drive him to S.F. State for the reopening of the campus. "Of course it was still dark," relates Mike, "and on my way to the Professor's house I was stopped by three Mill Valley police cars. Talk about security. They're really protecting him. Then when we

LEFT the house, there was the CHIEF of police, waiting to escort us out of town."

"That really is security," I agreed, impressed. "Has the Professor been receiving death threats?"

"Only the normal amount," said Mike. There.

Report from Our Man in San Francisco

Caenetti: In West Germany, reports Marilyn Venable, who has the clippings to prove it, Sinatra's movie, "The Detective," is called "Der Schnuffler." Even Frank has the

HKFLU? . . . The Rt. Rev. John Tracy Ellis, Prof. of Church History at USF, partially puts the blocks to our conjecture that San Francisco Mayor Alioto could be appointed a Cardinal by the Pope. "The Code of Canon Law that went into effect in 1915 abolished the practice of making Cardinals of those who were not at least ordained priests," notes the historian, "but there would be no reason why the Pope could not change the law in that regard to admit the Mayor to the Sacred College." In other words, Joe still has a chance, but a slim one.

Snatches of overheard conversation at an art gallery party: Hippie girl: "I took some acid before I went to see

"Yellow Submarine." Second hippie girl: "I took mescaline." Straight girl: "I took my kid."

But back to more mundane matters (flash: the moon is mooned). The Associated Press, a generally low-keyed wire service, sent out the following lead on the fire that damaged Gump's, Schneider Bros., Malm and Jeweler Constant Auger a few days ago: "Fire ripped through four plush stores in the city's shopping district, causing what one fire official estimated at more than \$5 million in damage — the greatest loss since the 1906 San Francisco earthquake." The latter statement apparently caused five-alarm consternation in city rooms all over the country for Fire Chief Bill Murray has been deluged with long-distance phone calls for "more details on this catastrophe." He is busily pouring cold water of AP's version: "We've had lots worse fires than this one. I'm afraid somebody got carried away. My guess is that damage will come out to around a million dollars, at most." Attention, city desks from here to Bangor, Maine: "San Francisco is NOT burning."

Malingers will be delighted to learn that, according to a high Dept. of Public Health official, the Hong Kong flu still hasn't peaked here. "We should be over the hump by the end of the coming week," he said Friday, reaching for yet another Kleenex.

ROYCE BRIER

Modern College Becomes Nothing But a Computer

Could it be the modern college has become in effect a computer?

That is, has it become a technical system wholly removed from the turn of this century, when even famous universities were small, intimate associations of teachers and students?

Or: it is possible this hypothetical development is at the root of the student-teacher revolt which is sweeping America, and through the halls of higher education across the world?

Sounds a touch crazy, all right. So what isn't crazy? Going to the moon is crazy. Snuffing out a million people with one device is crazy. Filling thoroughfares so chock-full of machines they can't move, that's crazy.

At the turn of the century,

if a kid wasn't a dumb-dumb, he went to college, presumably to learn about the world, life and civilizations, and this was expected to fit him to cope with them. Sometimes it did, if he met wise men and had a fledgling wisdom of his own.

It was a calm experience. There was no such thing as a workable flying machine, and Newton's Laws were inviol-

Opinions on Affairs of the World

able. There were not indeed many people around, and most of them were friends and kind of human.

But some biological process began crowding America, gorging it with striving strangers who were not very human. To an individual it was like an irruption of those fanciful Martians. There were four-to-one folks over the old day, and we now know, alas, that when you crowd rats in their cages, they first become demented, then die.

The college structure remained the same. It taught what it had always taught, but its buildings bulged with bewildered occupants, unable to understand it as their grandfathers easily did, and bitter to the point of insurrection.

The college became a technical system. You pushed a button, there was a hummm, and out came a seminar. You attended classes, so-called, and the teacher, also bewildered, didn't know the cardboard faces before him were kind of human, or what was in the mind behind the cardboard.

Nobody was to blame. It is what happened in 50-75 years. In due time it reached a point where the students and some teachers said, the hell with it! This took diverse forms, from surly to brickheaving, which of course didn't humanize the technical system.

Dr. R. A. Johnson, president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said the other day computer science can be useful in technological problems, but he doubted if it could be applied to the major priorities of the young generation, which seeks justice and an improved quality of life.

Gary Martins, researcher for the Rand Corporation, says he expects to see computers that can talk to their operators. The stumbling block is the word arrangement of English sentences, but "so far we are only in the Model-T stage on solving the problem."

When it reaches the Continental Mark III stage, it should be fascinating. But there won't be any colleges then, or probably anything else on this planet which is kind of human.

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