

Editorials-Opinion

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Some Stimulus for Taxpayers

It's consoling as we go into the final frantics of our income tax returns to know that our tax money is being wisely spent to bring us the better life.

Take travel, for instance. Everyone knows it's broadening—especially if it's done abroad. And nobody—but NOBODY—is doing it more broadly than our public servants in Congress.

A recent issue of the Congressional Record listed the cost of travel in 1966 by members of the House. And were they on the ball—or at least on the go!

One hundred and fifty members and staff employees of the House dutifully tore themselves away from the comforts of home life to endure the travail of travel at a cost to the taxpayer of only \$489,682.55.

(This doesn't include, of course, the cost to the military of flying our lawmakers when commercial service wasn't available. Or what it cost our embassies overseas to entertain these travelers.)

U.S. senators spent only \$233,426 in 1966 travel. But before you condemn them as provincial, remember

that the House has more members!

One trip gives an insight into the sacrifices our representatives are willing to make to serve their constituents.

Five members of a House Education and Labor subcommittee visited Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, India, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Germany, Denmark and Iceland. Their living expenses totaled \$17,950.18. But the U.S. Air Force flew them all that distance for the bargain price of only \$852.44.

Their mission? To study the impact of foreign manufacturing on U.S. employment and to inspect U.S. schools for the children of Americans stationed abroad.

The benefits of what they learned will be passed along to the American economy and culture—except possibly by one member of the group who just a few weeks before the trip had been defeated for re-election. But think what he'll have to tell his grandchildren!

Well, back to filling out that income tax form. It takes a lot of money to run a country as big as this.

New Crowd Counting Formula

The quadrennial presidential election campaigns are not only a time for inflated speeches. They also

herald a return of that phenomenon known as inflated crowd estimating—or deflated estimating, depending upon which party you listen to.

Now a new development may throw some honesty into the latter preoccupation of politicians.

Herbert Jacobs, a lecturer in journalism at the University of California, has devised what he calls "Jacobs, crowd formula."

The formula calls for walking off the length and width of a gathering, then adding the two figures. If the crowd is densely packed, this is multiplied by 10; if loosely assembled, by seven.

The average person occupies from six to eight square feet in most crowds, he says. For sit-ins, the figure is 6-7 square feet.

Jacobs reportedly perfected his formula by studying a student strike rally at the university, which various observers estimated as containing from 5,000 to 10,000 participants. Jacobs actually counted heads in an enlarged photo and came up with 2,804.

Always? Nuts!

Old statistics have abolished another myth. The latest is the one that holds that babies are almost always born in the wee, small hours of the morning.

Tain't so. Women's Medical News Service reports on a study of births in New York City by doctor of science Carl L. Erhardt.

He found that only 35 out of 1,362 babies were born between 2 and 3 a.m. The largest number were born between noon and 1 p.m.

For some reason, first babies are likely to be born at any time of day or night. But if the mother has had previous children, subsequent little strangers are more likely to arrive between 9 a.m. and noon. "By no means are most babies born in the middle of night," says Erhardt. "Mothers can now relax."

ASSEMBLYMAN VICTOR VEYSEY

Long Financial Drive Under Way

Fresh from a spring recess, the legislature this week starts on a long drive to complete the financial plans of the state for the next fiscal year before July 1.

By any standard, this year will be unusual: 1. The new Reagan administration seeks to alter drastically the previous pattern of taxes and expenditures. 2. The legislature, of nearly even partisan composition, is in the hands of strong and experienced Democrat leaders necessarily opposed to the administration. 3. For the first time, no mandatory adjournment date will terminate the session forcing a budget solution.

While partisan political games may prevail during much of the session, in the last analysis concern for needs of the people and for public opinion will drive partisan adversaries together to provide the essential two-thirds vote for passage of the needed revenue and budget measures. At least it always has.

Before the big decisions are reached, thousands of small ones must be made. The process of detailed examination of the budget of every state department by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and by the Senate Finance Committee will now start in earnest. The needs for salaries, supplies, equipment, buildings and all the myriad items which constitute nearly \$5 billion in expenditures will be sifted for excesses and for deficiencies.

Ways and Means is an elite committee made up of senior members only, who undertake detailed examination of all expenses. I am happy to join this important group for the

first time this year. This is like breaking into the major league because the parliamentary activity here is for big stakes and by experts.

This year, the committee is nearly evenly balanced with nine Republican and nine Democrat members. In addition, we have a Democrat Chairman, Robert Crown, with a very big and deciding vote.

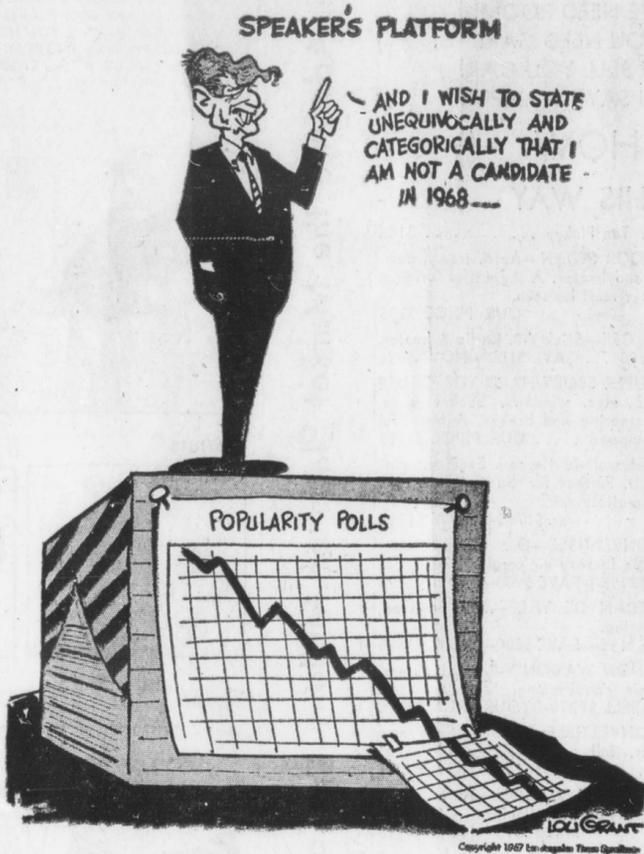
The Republican "half" of the committee is organized around veteran Assemblyman Frank Lanterman. We have access to adequate staff to develop facts on which to make decisions.

To examine the budget, the committee divides into six sub-committees, with each member serving on two of these. Usually, the sub-committee decisions become the final verdict of the entire committee.

I will be serving on the sub-committees dealing with education in all, its forms, and on the sub-committee dealing with state administration (the offices of governor, controller, treasurer, etc.), and also capital expenditures. For several weeks, this work will require five or six long meetings every week to take a look at every item in the budget.

This is a heavy assignment, but an interesting one. Our district has not had representation on this committee for quite a few years and I intend to do a creditable job if possible.

The subject of state expenditures and state revenue affects every one of us in a major way. Let me know what you think should be done to solve our present financial woes.



THE LIGHTER SIDE

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON (UPI)—In the United States, any citizen is entitled to formulate his own foreign policy, although he may have to get elected to carry it out.

Walter Lippman has his own foreign policy, as do Joseph Alsop, Barry Goldwater, Bobby Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Cassius Clay, Sandra Dee and numerous other individuals, including Lyndon Johnson.

Since having one's own foreign policy seems to be the "in" thing at the moment, I recently put together one for myself.

I drafted a "white paper" in which I traced America's involvement in Vietnam back to President Millard Fillmore.

This, I might add, is a unilateral position, promulgated without consultations with any of America's allies.

Forgive Me

In setting it forth, it was never my intention to bypass the White House, State Department, United Nations or other diplomatic channels.

Nevertheless, I soon found myself in a situation somewhat similar to that which developed during Bobby Kennedy's recent trip to Europe.

Could Kennedy help it if people kept poking peace feelers at him? Of course not. Such a thing might happen to anybody.

By the same token, it was hardly my fault that the Hanoi government saw fit to challenge my foreign policy declaration.

North Vietnam's official news agency, taking what I feel is a short-sighted view of history, rejected the "Fillmore's war" concept, claiming that our 15th president was too remote a figure to pin it on.

In Reply

When the Hanoi statement was first released, several of my foreign policy advisers urged me to make an immediate reply. This I was reluctant to do. For two reasons:

1. I feared it might lead to further escalation, which would eventually link America's Vietnam commitment to Christopher Columbus.

2. I didn't know what to say. Now, however, I have come into possession of fresh information that tends to substantiate my position. A lady living in Pennsylvania informs me that her father, age 63, is named Millard Fillmore Pegley.

If there are people alive today who were named for President Fillmore, he obviously is not as remote a figure as Hanoi implied.

In fact, I am willing to take this issue to the conference table at any time and any place. We may be able to compromise on Chester A. Arthur.

Letters to the Editor

Editor, The Sun:

Several letters have been published recently regarding unsightly conditions in certain areas of the city.

Residents in our area refer to the Thornhill Road Junk Yard, which is on Thornhill near Sunny Dunes Road. Recently it was partially cleaned up but is still an unsightly mess in what is supposed to be one of the better residential areas.

If the owner or operator of

this yard has a legal right for such an operation, then he should be required to fence or screen the mess in order to stop deterioration of the entire neighborhood.

JOHN R. McCARTY

QUOTES

WASHINGTON—The Senate military preparedness subcommittee blaming the Washington restriction of U.S. bombing targets in North Vietnam for the heavy cost of the air war: "The air raids over North Vietnam have admittedly made it more costly for the North Vietnamese to wage aggression, but it has been done through the sacrifices of many American lives and aircraft losses extending into the billions of dollars."

Where to Write

Your representatives in Congress and the state legislature cannot know your views unless you tell them. Their addresses are:

THOMAS H. KUCHEL
United States Senator, care of U.S. Senate Post Office, Washington, D.C.

GEORGE MURPHY
United States Senator, care of U.S. Senate Post Office, Washington, D.C.

JOHN V. TUNNEY
Congressman, 38th California District, care of House Post Office, Washington, D.C.

GORDON COLOGNE
State Senator, State Capitol, Sacramento, Calif. 95814.

VICTOR VEYSEY
State Assemblyman, State Capitol, Sacramento, Calif. 95814.

BERRY'S WORLD



"And, of course, we have the mini wedding gown, if you feel like rebelling against the nuptial strait jacket!"

HOLMES ALEXANDER

The War on Snooping Makes Us All Saints

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Vance Packard, the best-selling author on American mores, is co-chairing the National Right to Privacy Committee which promises to make common cause among persons of good will across the political spectrum.

It's about time that a rally-round cause was found to attract conservatives, liberals and political neutralists. It has seemed to me a downright disgrace that persons of different ideological coloration so often show their loyalty to self-interest and association instead of to the principles that we all swear by.

Yes, we should stick to our friends when they come under attack for their opinions' sake, but it is a failure of public responsibility when a writer cannot be objective toward the eternal verities.

Last election season I was in the Western states and was told by a newspaper editor there that my column was dropped years ago because I was "anti-McCarthy." Since I'd been dropped by other papers for being "pro-McCarthy," I felt reconciled all around with the evidence that I must have been for Joe when I found him right, but against him when I found him wrong.

Nobody is unfailingly noble and objective, and I know I sit in harsher judgment on myself than on colleagues and competitors. But, heaven help both conservatives and liberals if our readers can tell in advance that we're going to recognize sin only when the other side commits it.

Haven't we recently seen the civil-rights liberals excusing Adam Clayton Powell because he's Negro? And conservatives ducking the matter of Sen. Tom Dodd because he's a noted anti-communist? In the case of the CIA's admitted corruption of students, church groups and labor organizations, haven't we seen lines of apologists forming to the left and right? Doesn't everybody know that the straight and narrow path of truth can't lead anywhere except to condemnation of a system that per-

mits this use of the CIA?

But it looks from here that the Right to Privacy may be a subject to make saints of us all. Author Packard's latest book, "The Naked Society," exposes widespread snooping by conservative-oriented Big Business and liberal-oriented Big Government. The other co-chairman is William Rickenbacker, senior editor of the right-wing "National Review." Also present, in spirit at least, is the far-left American Civil Liberties Union. A few years ago the Union offered to defend Rickenbacker when he defied the Census Bureau's order to stand and deliver personal information.

The co-chairmen say the committee will urge Congress not to appropriate funds for the National Data Bank, a computer that will store away facts about every citizen. If Congress does authorize funds, the committee will ask amendments to the bill. One would provide that each citizen may review and refute what his government says about him. Another says that no outside persons shall have access to any file except by permission of the biographee.

A second committee goal is to make the national census which falls in 1970 a voluntary questionnaire. Our Constitution in the Fourth Amendment protects the citizen from "unreasonable search." The committee challenges the government to show a good reason for its curiosity about vital statistics.

It may be that the Data Bank and the Census are not well-selected targets for the crusaders of the Right to Privacy. There are abuses far more flagrant than these, and the government ought not to be hog-tied in its pursuit of criminals, subversives and sociological knowledge.

All the same, it's good to find a healthy skepticism in this field and a rising indignation against snooping. If nothing else, the Right to Privacy is a phase of liberty on which most conservatives and liberals can agree. It is sacred ground for that reason alone.

THE WASHINGTON SCENE

No 'Shoes-Off' Touch Cost Lodge His Post

By RAY CROMLEY

WASHINGTON (NEA) — We are fond of blaming Asian customs for many of our difficulties in Viet Nam.

But friends of Henry Cabot Lodge claim it was an old New England tradition, basically, that defeated him as ambassador to Vietnam.

In the best Boston form, in which the "Lodges speak only to Cabots..." Lodge's major contacts with the Vietnamese had narrowed basically to the half-dozen or so men at the top.

Lodge did not maintain close contact with the leadership of the assembly or with others outside the ruling military junta. He did not keep close to leaders in the varied sections of Vietnamese life—newspaper editors, professors, politicians, lawyers, and other professional men, nor with farm groups, merchants or other segments of the population.

In many countries this would not have mattered. In Vietnam it does.

To make things worse, Lodge had as his political analyst a brilliantly successful statistical analyst extremely weak in understanding people—especially Vietnamese people and their ways. He was unable to see past his statistics.

In the Vietnam-type political-military war, American and Vietnamese leaders on the spot up and down the line must fit together as closely as gloves fit hands.

This must not be a mere formal closeness. It must be the type in which men in both groups, Vietnamese and American, know exactly what the others are thinking and why.

Otherwise, discussions become mere parlor games when you talk about highly delicate things—the corruption of some high officials, the inefficiency of some generals, the pros and cons of military strategies which have strong personal repercussions, how to get men to voluntarily give up power in an election.

Only men who understand each other intimately can talk on such sensitive points in the middle of a war and get anywhere.

A former prime minister of Vietnam has complained to this reporter about the absence of this informal closeness.

What we need are American officials, he said, who will take off their shoes and talk to us as friends—bluntly and frankly. There's too much formality in our relationship.

The informal, personal approach is important in Vietnam because Vietnamese politics and government is very personal. Men have strong personal loyalties and follow friends or personal leaders more than platforms or slogans. This is the secret of Ho Chi Minh's strength.

Unless Americans get close to this under-the-surface innerplay, we won't have the understanding to play our role successfully in the war or in helping to set up a democratically elected government in Vietnam.

So They Say

NEW DELHI—Foreign Minister M. C. Chagla announcing to parliament that India is capable of producing an atomic bomb: "We have the nuclear capability. We have decided to utilize our nuclear capability for peaceful purposes only."

HONG KONG—A Chinese Red Guard declaration, broadcast by Radio Peking, admitting that Communist party leader Mao Tse-tung's attempt to purge the country of all opposition has not been completely successful:

"The powerholders who take the capitalist path in the process are still there...and are continuing for a counterattack against the revolutionaries."

BIMINI, The Bahamas—Adam Clayton Powell, speaking in the House of Representatives, help to further the Negro's cause:

"Maybe I can become the catalytic agent to bring unity to the whole black movement."

NEW YORK—Twiggy, England's top fashion model displaying her 31-22-32 dimensions to reporters on her arrival at Kennedy International Airport:

"It's not really what you'd call a figger, is it? I'd say I was thin with spindly legs and mousey hair."