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A—8 MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1961

Race for Last Place

As far as the people of Washington are concerned, they are as grateful to the legislatures of the thirty-six states which already have ratified our Constitutional amendment as they will be to the thirty-seventh and the thirty-eighth, whose favorable action will make the amendment effective.

Whether Ohio and Kansas will act before today is over seems to depend on whether Ohio is willing to act first, giving Kansas the honor of being the State that adds the finishing touch. We hear from Kansas that its legislators are rather serious about gaining this honor. This year is the 100th anniversary of Kansas' admittance to the Union as a State. They would like to make final ratification of the voting amendment a part of the centennial celebration.

We applaud the sentiment which involves Ohio and Kansas in this friendly rivalry. But we hope they will not carry it too far. If Kansas does, become the 38th State to ratify, those familiar with the long struggle to obtain favorable action in Congress on the voting amendment will recall the efforts of a distinguished Kansan—the late Senator Arthur Capper of Topeka. Year after year he introduced and argued for a somewhat comparable amendment, giving residents of the District not only the right to vote for President and Vice President, but to be represented in Congress by those of their own choice. This gentle Kansan did as much as any former member of Congress to lay the groundwork for the amendment which, perhaps today, Kansas will put into the Constitution.

Reprieve in Laos

On the basis of past performance, it may be assumed that Russia's apparent indorsement of the British proposal on the Laos issue, as reported through Pravda, means the Kremlin thinks that Laos, soon or late, will be pulled into the Communist orbit. And this may prove to be the case. Even so, the prospect of negotiations rather than war in Laos is one which should be most heartily welcomed.

Neither President Kennedy nor any other Western leader, of course, has actually threatened war as a means to prevent Communist domination of Laos. An implied threat of forcible resistance has run through much of what has been said on the point, however, and while this may have imposed some restraint on the Kremlin, it has also seemed to reinforce the United States with the risk of a jungle conflict far more difficult and dangerous than the Korean war. The Soviet warning to the SEATO ministers, now meeting in Thailand, that force in Laos would be met with force underscores the point.

Our policy toward Laos has not been shaped exclusively by the Soviet attitude or probable reaction. A major difficulty has been that there is little or nothing in the attitude of the Laotian authorities or the fighting qualities of the army upon which a strong Western position could be established. The familiar admonition against building one's house on sand is very apt in this case. Another factor has been that the Communists would enjoy great advantages, both strategically and logistically, in a war in Laos. Of course, if the Communist push continues, a showdown at some point may well be inevitable. We could wait a long time, however, without finding a worse place for it than Laos.

Spy Case's 'Untied Ends'

Conviction by a London jury of two trusted British naval clerks and three foreigners on spy charges leaves unanswered what Chief Justice Sir Hubert Lister Parker called "the number of ends which are left untied" in the sensational case. Although the Justice cautioned the jury against speculating about these "ends," the public, here as well as in Great Britain, has cause to speculate and to be concerned. For while the testimony revealed that secret drawings of one of America's newest atomic submarines were transmitted to Moscow and certain other military intelligence was obtained by Russian agents, much of the evidence against the five was withheld for security reasons.

The blueprints of one of our nuclear submarines had been lent to the British Navy in connection with their research and development work in that field. Apparently security precautions at the naval research station were inadequate, for two employes were able to remove many documents of a highly confidential nature. They handed the material to a Russian, an American and a man with a Canadian passport. Scotland Yard investigators found a radio beamed to Moscow, false passports, micro-dot code messages and many other articles used for espionage in the home of a couple identified by the FBI as former residents of New York City.

How much additional data of a vital nature was channeled by this ring to Russia and whether others, as yet uncaught, were involved in the conspiracy presumably are among the "untied ends" of the case. Britain, lax in the past in security matters, has been stirred by the spy revelations in the London court. Certainly the necessity has clearly been shown for continued vigilance against the persistent efforts of the Reds to steal our military secrets, while professing friendship and peaceful intentions. It doesn't help much to convict the spies after the secrets have been stolen.

Budget Politics

The fact, now affirmed by the White House, that fiscal 1961 and 1962 will end on the budget books as deficit years hardly qualifies as one of the major surprises of our time.

Almost from the day that the Eisenhower administration presented, in January, 1960, its estimate of a $4.2-billion surplus for the twelve months ending this next June 30, the course of events has been running hard in a contrary direction. When the high promise of spectacular prosperity from that first month of the new decade failed to materialize, budget trouble clearly was ahead. Federal revenues declined below estimated levels, expenditures went up and Congress failed, as expected, to follow certain revenue-raising recommendations. The slim surplus of $79 million mentioned last January was much more a hope than a likelihood. President Kennedy now calculates that the 1961 totals will show a deficit of $3.2 billion.

To some extent, the Eisenhower forecast of a $1.5-billion surplus for fiscal 1962, submitted just before he left office last January, is suffering from the same forces. Once again it appears that business activity, even though it may turn upward in the near future, will not account for revenues as estimated and that Congress will hold to its stubborn disinclination to help the budget makers by raising such charges as postal rates. In addition, proposals of new President Kennedy may calculate that the 1961 totals will show a deficit of $3.2 billion.

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There is little purpose, perhaps, in wringing hands about this particular exercise in Federal fiscal management. It was charged by the Democrats last January that the outgoing Republican administration was "playing politics" with the budget. It is charged now by Republicans that the new Democratic administration is doing the same thing. Possibly it would be most surprising if either charge were baseless. Meanwhile, of course, only those who believe in genuine fiscal prudence (to which both parties profess great devotion) need to feel any concern.

A Chink at Best

It is interesting, though perhaps not at all significant, that the Kremlin has done away with censorship on outgoing news. This means that foreign correspondents will not have to seek an imprimatur of sorts before transmitting their stories to overseas outlets; they will not be subject, that is, to the advance approval or disapproval of Communist bureaucrats (paying their hacks) empowered to edit the heart out of certain types of reports, or to suppress them entirely.

As far as it goes, this is a "liberalizing" development that the free world has reason to welcome. Still, encouraging though it may be, the thing must be taken with a grain of salt. After all, twice before (in Stalin's day, in 1939 and 1946), there was a similar lifting of Soviet restraints on the outflow of news, but in both instances the relaxation was exceedingly shortlived, and the censors came back to work not only in a great hurry, but with a vengeance. Needless to say, the Communist system being what it is, the same sort of about-face could be done under reversal of policy, could happen again in Moscow within a matter of weeks.

Moreover, let anyone be tempted to overrate this latest Soviet move in the field of censorship, the fact should be emphasized that the "liberalization" involved carries with it an implied warning to all foreign newsmen in the USSR that they will be held accountable for the transmission of any reports that strike the Kremlin as being "incorrect" or otherwise displeasing. In short, if a correspondent transmits a story (no matter how accurate) that displeases the party line, he will be exposing himself to immediate expulsion from the USSR.

To the Kremlin's strictly limited retreat from censorship hardly warrants a lot of hoopla. At best it constitutes only a small chink in the Iron Curtain. Certainly, as far as incoming news is concerned, as far as intramundane contact and communication with the free world are concerned, the Russian people are still being kept in the dark. And this will continue to be the case, as our State Department has noted, so long as Moscow keeps on jamming our radio broadcasts, and bars such other things as the normal distribution of newspapers, magazines, books and films from our own and other non-Communist lands.

'Guess My Prestige Hasn't Reached Zero After All!'

LETTERS TO THE STAR

Aid to Education

In the question of aid to education there is a point that is not being discussed. That is that it partially deprives the parents of their right as well as an obligation.

An active populace in each school district, willing to inform themselves on their local issues, surely can direct their schools better than an agency in Washington which must attend to thousands of such districts and strive to satisfy the many pressures brought to bear upon it.

And as for money, cannot the States raise funds just as easily as Washington? Perhaps it would be braver in the use of money when they are long miles from the voters. Already the States have apparatus to collect and distribute educational funds whereas in order to federally process them without unreasonable waste we must institute new agencies and the like. And this to do a job which could be performed more efficiently by the States. Surely this is a democratic scheme of things to be performed by them. If our leaders are willing to concede that the people of this country are not willing to keep vigilance over their Government then they have conceded the cold war.

Why waste time on legislation which is only a sad substitute for an awake citizenry when only the real thing will make any difference?

Henry T. Canaday

* * * *

The cry now seems to be toward the poor taxpaying parent who is forced to support the public school system as well as pay for sending his child to a parochial school. One such abused person suggested that the taxes be spends for support of public schools be refunded to him and all parents who send their children to parochial schools.

However, if such parents should be refunded taxes money, why shouldn't other persons whose children are now adults and educated receive refunds too? Why shouldn't retired citizens whose tax money also goes to support of schools receive refunds? What about the unfortunate couples who have no children but who also pay taxes, a part of which supports schools? Shouldn't we be refunded too? Where do the unmarried come in—men and women who never will have children, but whose taxes also pay a portion to schools? Can they also be included in the refund program?

It disturbs me to realize that the people in this country have lost their sense of values to the extent that the Government must be the keeper and Santa Claus to all. Have the American people completely lost the initiative that was once the backbone of this Nation, that we must look to let Uncle Sam accomplish for us what we ought to be doing for ourselves? Couldn't this perhaps be the answer to the President's question that what we can do for the country and not what can the country do for us? Or are we already so close to socialism that we can't see the forest for the trees?

Kathryn W. Olsen

* * * *

If the Federal aid to education bill is passed, then it should benefit not only public schools but also parochial schools. The same classroom shortage, the same teacher shortage, the same inflation of expenses are being experienced by both public and private schools.

One third of the minor earned today goes into taxes, city, State and otherwise. Parents of private school children are paying out of their own pockets to send their children to school, and are paying taxes to maintain public schools which their children will never use.

There are 6.5 million students in private schools, 15 per cent of the students in the Nation. These schools cost the Government nothing. Should the private school close down, the public schools would be literally swamped. Therefore, it would seem equitable to either give Federal aid to these schools or concede tax exemptions for parents of private school children.

Michael Loftus.

* * * *

The "free" public school is an enigma. Outwardly it promises freedom for all, yet it is the greatest monopoly of religion and the destroyer of man, and further restrictions on freedom are sign to come.

Lest someone be quick to correct me, one of the main objections to aid for non-public schools is that the Government would have no control over what is taught in private schools, and that we would have Communist-controlled or Fascist-controlled groups, anti-God groups, anti-Christ groups, secure Communist groups, and what not. What sort of an absurd situation have we let ourselves be in! Who has delegated to the Government and the majority the right to subvert education under the guise of freedom and democracy and the common good? Who has given the power of taxation to oppress and prohibit the freedom of speech, expression and religion? Who dares to equate freedom with taxes for parks and roads?

"Subject opinion to coercion; whom will you make insolent? Pallidle men; men governed by private as well as public reasons. And why subject it to coercion? To produce uniformity. But is uniformity desirable? Is it not better of face and stature." (Thomas Jefferson.)

"Those who begin coercive elimination of dissent soon find themselves exterminating dissenters. Compulsory uniformity is achieved only by the unanimity of the graveyard." (Justice Jackson.)

Ever since Horace Mann wrote the principles of separation of church and state in the Massachusetts constitution, we have had a system of public schools without making allowances for parents who did not want that type of religion taught to their children, we have had difficulties.

It is the same inflexible school support system which threatens to break down separation of church and state, and it is the same that is a major hindrance for a new Ecumenical Council of the Catholics. I propose a flexible school taxation system, such as exempting from school taxes those parents who send their children to non-public schools.

This would strike a balance between the two school systems. It would offer a compromise which would be fundamental and secure passage of an aid to education bill. It would not encourage splinter school systems to any great extent. It will prevent a test of constitutionality of an education bill discriminating against those who support non-public schools, that is, our really free schools. No one would be exempt from supporting public schools.

Edward A. Lange.

* * * *

If giving the aid to education bill is constitutional, why not give aid directly to the student, and have him pick the school of his own choice, as is now done to college students? This would be for the people and not religion. Also, this need not be full tuition, but a grant to help pay for it.

Michael Galgano

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Senator Murray

Senator James E. Murray's death ended a career of singular effectiveness. He had the rare ability of being able to entertain new ideas, and associating with people who generated them.

In a day when all too few Senators had staffs and let them have their heads, Jim Murray welcomed outside help and knew how to use it. The result was a record which put him up alongside such great and long remembered Senators as George Norris, Robert La Follette, and Hiram Johnson. He was among these men for another important reason. He put his good mind and tenacity of will to work on major issues of public concern and sought no hasty or easy victory.

His and his associates developed the Full Employment Act of 1946 all the way from a nebulous idea to its enactment into law. Because of the prominence given the pronouncements of the President's Council of Economic Advisers established under this law, we now see an adumbration of a transition from public policy based on principles concerning fiscal and monetary practices that can lead to recovery and growth of the Nation.

It was Senator Murray who called in Morris L. Cooke and a number of us to chance up the Missouri Valley Authority proposal, modeled after the TVA. While it ultimately failed of passage, the hearings, writings and speeches it produced implanted the conservationist idea of the unity of a river valley so that no agency of government can any longer ignore all its potentialities. His espousal of the MVA resulted in a widening of the efforts of the Army Engineers in Missouri Valley Authorization to develop the great dams on the main stem of the Missouri.

Senator Murray's first venture in a broad field of interest was in founding father of the Small Business Committee, which was responsible for the fact that small business made such a singular contribution to the war effort.

No circus showman, Senator Murray performed his great feats of leadership through day-by-day application to his tasks, and through the chairmanship of a thinking group of people, who clustered around him well knowing that what they had of merit to offer this unassuming man would receive a hearing and would make better than fair chance of becoming law. As one of that group, I gladly pay tribute to this effective public servant.

Dewey Anderson,
Executive Director, Public Affairs Institute.

Deadly Jargon

Surely and insidiously nuclear warfare terms have crept into our language. Some are delicious ones to be an extra sensation. "Insulated warfare," "tactical weapons," "first-strike capabilities."—phrases which a short time ago were the conceptual tools of theorists have now taken a prominent place in the minds of our military planners. While only a few years ago it was world said "there is no alternative to peace," it is now said that "there is no alternative but to fight a war." Instead of being a phrase of deterrence, it has become a phrase of warfare.

While disarmament talks drag and mounting controversial views that greeted the feasibility of a so-called limited war have become obsolete as a greater reliance is put on this traditional end-all of diplomacy. Is Laos to be the testing ground for this policy? Is the rationale of the limited warfare plan too artfully constructed to be publicly thought about and debated?

Richard Mintz.

THE PASSING SCENE

By RALPH McGILL

Sense of Urgency at White House

There is a tangible sense of urgency in the White House. It has not yet been possible to transmit this to the country, or for that matter, to the Congress, but that there is now at one of those points in history encountered but once.

Within the next three to five years we will either be at war with the Soviet Union or we will have attained some form of coexistence. In that same span of time we will reach some new stage of relationship, better or worse than we now have with the massive state of Communist China.

Critical Era Ahead

In these challenging, demanding months, we will have succeeded or failed in our efforts to solve the serious problems of automation and the economic growth rate in world trade. We will have experienced the jarring effect of major economic shifts. We will have a gross national product which expands at a healthy rate, or we will have a sick one.

These are some of the facts of our life which may not be avoided. Urgency is recognized, and it is encouraging that one encounters this quality chiefly in the White House.

In facing these testing years, one thing already is very clear. We will need to learn that planning is neither a dirty nor subversive word. Long-range blueprints are essential ingredients of the future into which we are moving.

Our economy is in for some adjustments which may be temporarily painful. The aircraft industry, for example, will certainly undergo considerable change. The domestic demand for jets will not be enough to maintain full employment in an industry tremendously expanded by the Second World War. That this relatively new industrial giant is so suddenly and sharply reduced by technological advances to the field of weapons is both dismaying and astounding.

The Government will not need all of its shipbuilding yards because cruisers and destroyers will not be built. It will close some of its rifle and conventional arms factories. A considerable part of the Nation's productive machinery is either obsolete or inefficient in competition with more modern tools and machines. Automation will close some existing factories and open new ones. A good many of those which will be closed will be in small towns. Retail and service business and homes have been built around the payroll of such plants.

Inadequate Planning

It is not to our credit as an intelligent people that we have to plan either in government or business to notify such communities well in advance of any impending shutdown, nor are there any long-range plans for trying to help such communities to move in when one form of production is ended. There has been talk of a dual purpose blueprint for industrial plants, but nothing has come of it. We do not know the answer to the question of what we will do with the several million persons whose jobs will be abolished by technology.

Will the States or the Federal Government train them and find new employment? We know that there will be have the paradox of employment and unemployment, both at record levels, at one and the same time.

Without question, urgency and planning are major requirements of our day and age.

Traffic 'Togetherness'

January 18 was a turning point in the history of Greater Washington. For those with short memories, that was the day it took us six hours to get home. Traffic has not been the same since: it has graduated to a higher plateau of anarchy, chaos, and cryal. Washington has gone big-time at last. Every evening, one can see display of togetherness: buses nose-to-tail, cars bumper-to-bumper, pedestrians jostling noses with delivery trucks, a neighborly babble of horns, brakes, screams, and profanities.

Yes, streetcars were inflexible in one sense; you could set your watch by them. The buses run by the calendar, but not every day. In many years of riding the No. 26 and 82 streetcar lines, not once do I recall their being stopped or even appreciably slowed by snow, ice or storm where they had to share the street with cars. The No. 82 right-of-way was only for more than Clark's original cash investment to provide Capital Transit. A ride along this route now is one of his tinplate quadrupeles is enough to slip anyone's dick. The Cabin John right-of-way was hastily abolished the very day the streetcars ceased to run, stripped while the rails were still warm. Our ever-escalated demand for ever-faster of service and convenience, coupled that demand, time and speedy swaying diesel-belchers look larger, and were much less dependable. In the word "transit" in D. C. Transit just a cover name for the private bus company operations? Having destroyed our original rapid transit routes and facilities, this public utility now wants to borrow large sums very cheaply from the poor Federal taxpayer; in order to construct rapid transit facilities.

This super-high-speed-throughway dream city has all the flexibility of a bowl of spaghetti, and even looks like one, seen from the air. Cloverpass, underclover, leaufing, and overleaf; children play games like these: Adults do too, but generally they don't force their hobbies on the rest of us.

Some of someone has been said on the subject of flexibility by District officials who should know better. Lesser forms of life, such as amoebas, have great flexibility. What this city needs is a little rigidity: a spinal column, a few ribs, a semblance of ordered movement and purposeful development. This is the function of rapid transit, with its own right-of-way, partly underground.

The vaunted flexibility of buses (what happened January 19?), the ability to change routes at the drivers' fancy, the more traffic, the less its ability to dodge around it. The ability of buses to change routes may be a convenience on occasion, but by and large it has proven an informal nuisance. Commerce develop, land-use patterns and land values are established to a considerable degree on the basis of rapid transit. If routes are in a continual state of flux, commuter habits, land uses, taxfor patterns can never stabilize.

The citizen and the commuter have a stake in stability, stability, predictable directions of growth. Even an amoeba gets too big for its britches, it sinks, and gets again. This is what is happening to happen to Washington, Cities cannot flourish as invertebrates.

Charles T. Stewart, Jr.

Questions and Answers

By THE HASKINS SERVICE

Q. Who are the supervisors associated with the American Bible Society?—P. W.

A. They are full or partime sales people who carry the Bible and the Testaments all over the world. The society has almost 3,000 of them in its employ. Colporteur is a French word from "colporter," which literally means "to carry from the neck," and originally designated hawkers or peddlers. In the modern sense, it refers to any one who sells or distributes religious books or tracts.

Q. What kind of insects are the ones that get in packages of dry food products?—Dr. Harry Lee Smith—Q. J.

A. The kinds of pantry pests most commonly found in dry food products are the red-legged grain beetle, flour beetle, cigarette beetle, drug-store beetle, rice weevil, and Indian-meal moth. These are common pests, they do not carry disease, and they do not bite. Most of the food is heavily infected or ruined naturally by disease, and it may be fed to birds and animals.

Q. Is it practical to try to protect fruit trees from birds by providing other food nearby for them?—T. B.

A. Yes. Many farmers and fruit farmers have found it worth while to plant mulberry trees or bushes to distract birds from cherry and other fruit trees. The Russian mulberry, a hardy grower and a prolific bearer, is especially recommended. It is grown in open as the sole crop, and as cherries, and have been found to appeal to birds more than any cultivated fruit.

Q. What is the Orgain of Christ?—Mrs. Ed. A.

A. The name is given to a cross-cross-cross-cross, a cross which was developed at the University of Oregon, in which each of the cross-cross speakers (those who preach the first and second affirmative and negative speeches) is cross-examined by an inquiring speaker. Each side then presents a rebuttal and a summary. There are usually two cross-cross-cross each time; sometimes a team uses a cross-cross-cross to present the rebuttal and summary.

Q. Please explain the meaning of the X and P in figure symbol.—D. J.

A. Chi and Rho are the Greek letters of the Greek words XPISTOS (Christ) and are used as a monogram or abbreviation for the name of Christ. The P placed within the X constitutes what is know as the monogram of Christ. Constantine the Great ordered this placed on the shields of his soldiers over 1,600 years ago.

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