

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## ABAG's Troubles

Editor — The recent ABAG ~~bands their, while exposing the~~ human frailties of Tom Truax, really points out the lax management practices of ABAG's executive staff. That such embezzlement activities could exist for a period of nearly nine months without discovery shatters any remaining public faith in ABAG's management ability.

It seems incredible that any responsible organization would hire a 24-year-old, fresh out of college, and place him in such a sensitive, responsible position with such meager check and balance of his operations. Certainly no private business would commit such an error. And few, if any, government agencies, responsible directly to the people, would take such liberties.

The services that ABAG wishes to take over and manage, operate or otherwise administer in the Bay Area can best be done by our existing county governments in mutual cooperation with one another and with the cities. . . . ABAG can continue to serve a function, the function it was established to perform — that of a voluntary forum for discussion and mutual planning of solutions to regional problems. Give the tax-money-management authority to the county governments, that have responsible, safe-guarded departments for use and care of public funds and are accessible to and responsible to the voters.

WALLY REEMELIN

Berkeley

## What Losing Means

Editor — Now there is talk of using "tactical" nuclear weapons in Vietnam. Each previous increase in U.S. involvement has been excused as an effort to "win" the war sooner; each has led only to more crippling, more mutilation, more destruction and death. It is time to consider the advantages of losing.

To lose would mean that, for us, the war would be over. No more

would Americans be killed; no more would Americans be killers. Twenty-three per cent of our tax ~~money~~ ~~now~~ ~~wasted~~ in Vietnam, could be devoted to building a better America. Vietnam would be left to be fought over by the Vietnamese (and may the best man win — Communist or fascist, Buddhist or Catholic, northerner or southerner). Worldwide regard of the United States as warmongering and imperialistic would be deprived of its basis in fact. And most important, the Pentagon would no longer have an excuse to rattle its nuclear saber, and we would no longer have to risk the deserved retaliation of a shocked and frightened world.

STUART GOLDSTEIN, M.D.

San Francisco.

## The Thorn

Editor — It's good to have The Chronicle back again. Especially great was your editorial Wednesday "Two Critical Months in the Vietnam War." A daily editorial of such a nature from you would be a continual thorn in the side of the Administration.

M. SCOTT EVANS.

Menlo Park.

## A Service Gone

Editor — The morning's report on the unseemly demise of the Western Addition Readiness Program was somewhat of a shock. There are many facets to this problem that would seem to make it one of the few active programs that the city would really work to save.

Every politician and their brothers yell at the high cost of welfare, and the thousands of wantonly lazy people who cling to the dole (erroneous of course) yet when a program is started to give the people on welfare a chance to get off the rolls, it is soon quietly killed. Doesn't that sound incredible? Particularly when it comes on top of all the conversation about building a new multi-million dollar sports arena.

If this program has assisted 83

people, it should be a comfort to the Mayor and The Establishment that there are perhaps 83 fewer to throw rocks at the police or storm city hall when the time comes.

The Mayor talks grandly about helping the poor in the ghettos to do something about "self improvement" and "pride" but does nothing about giving them a chance to better themselves.

ROGER CLOUTIER.

San Francisco.

## Confucius Says

Editor — Some 25 centuries ago the Chinese philosopher Confucius said: "There are those, teacher and student alike, who bemoan their times as lost."

"With long hair unkempt and bodies unwashed, they would lay down the philosophy of their times, and persuade all others with their constant denigrations and mournful fears. They are sick, and would inflict their sickness on all who ignore or deride them."

ALFRED W. DOBRAS.

Stratford, Conn.

## 'Down With Hippies'

Editor — As a native San Franciscan I view with increasing displeasure the large group of flower children who have taken over the Haight-Ashbury. . . . But I was pleased that following the recent disturbances in the district, San Francisco's new Mayor Joseph Alito gave his full support to Chief Cahill and did not tolerate nor attempt to appease those who constantly cry "police brutality."

Just as the work of any police officer is only as effective as the backing he receives from his superior officers, Chief Cahill's efforts and those of the entire department will only be as successful as the continued support they receive from their Mayor.

SHERIDAN DICKSON.

Oakland.

**San Francisco Chronicle**  
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

Friday, March 1, 1968

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Some Arguments for State Withholding

Editor — In your editorial of January 7 you state that The Chronicle is opposed to payroll withholding of state income taxes and list five reasons. I believe the arguments set forth in the editorial justify clarification for the following reasons:

1. The claim that withholding encourages higher tax rates is not justified by the historical pattern established under Federal withholding. Under the Federal income tax withholding system there have been two rate increases in Federal income taxes since the inception of withholding in 1943 and four decreases. The net result has been a decrease in the basic federal income tax rate from 19 per cent in 1943 to 14 per cent in 1967. During the same period in California without a withholding system, there have been two rate increases in the state income taxes and no decreases.

2. The contention that withholding would unjustly burden those taxpayers who overpay is subject to challenge. Taxpayers are now accustomed to having their Federal income tax withheld from their paychecks and at the end of the year figuring out whether they owe the government or the government owes them. The same would be true with state income tax and would impose no more of a burden on those taxpayers who overpay. In both instances they would figure out their taxes due at the end of the year and if they overpaid, would file for a refund. It appears that rather than being a burden, employees would actually be inconvenienced by the system.

3. The editorial claims that a withholding system is inflationary. In its first year withholding will generate \$422 million in revenue, \$407 of which would be one-time revenue. Assembly Bill 20, as introduced, provides that \$300 million would be committed to capital construction thereby avoiding the need for another bond issue for this purpose. The interest saving should amount to approximately \$250 million over the life of the bonds. After the third year, state

withholding would produce \$89 million in revenue on a continuing basis without an increase in taxes. It seems logical that this would be less inflationary than increasing state taxes by an equivalent amount.

4. The contention that withholding taxes would mean higher administrative costs to government is only true during the period of transition from the present system to withholding. In 1968-9 administrative costs for withholding would amount to \$5.8 million while administrative costs for the present system of semi-annual payment of state income taxes would amount to \$4.8 million. However, in 1969-70 the administrative cost of withholding would be reduced to \$4.6 million or \$200 thousand less than the present system. Of more importance is the fact that the state stands to gain the additional \$89 million annually.

5. The editorial alleges that withholding is opposed by a great majority of the voters. In the latest poll taken on this subject in May 1967 by the California Roll, the public showed that it favored withholding 47 per cent to 44 per cent. Moreover, this figure is likely to be higher this April when most taxpayers realize that their payment in 1968 will be nearly twice as much as their 1967 payment.

I would like to suggest that a withholding system is a convenient and efficient method of collecting state income taxes and indeed is inevitable in California. The arguments of taxpayer convenience, recouping up to \$89 million in additional revenues each year, and balancing the cash flow with the expenditure flow are three compelling reasons for collecting state income taxes through a withholding system.

JOHN G. VENEMAN,  
Chairman,  
Assembly Committee on  
Revenue and Taxation,  
California Legislature.

Sacramento.

Mr. Veneman refers to an editorial "A Reckless Game," which appeared in The Chronicle Sunday Punch. That edition received very limited circulation, owing to the newspaper strike called on January 5. — Editor

## Time to Change

Editor — President Johnson has indicated that we must live up to our word and our commitments. This is all well and good, but it also assumes that we are infallible and that we should not reevaluate our policies and commitments with a view toward improving them. It is extremely dangerous to take such an inflexible position. The time has come to change our policies which obviously are draining the blood and finances of the American people.

It is clear that we cannot tolerate aggression as it existed during World War II. When a foreign power seeks to cross the long established borders of another country, this type of aggression is the type of threat which should be met and resisted with all the resources we have at our command.

But what about that type of aggression which arises from an inability of a government to satisfy its people, a government that fails to internally stabilize itself? If we have any commitments to such governments, it should be only in the way of reasonable and limited financial, technical and economic help; we should not be forced to shed the blood of our sons for governments that are not strong enough to command the respect of the people whom they are attempting to govern. A government, with our economic, financial and technical assistance, should be able to stand up on its own two feet; if it cannot, it certainly does not deserve the lives of our young men . . .

ALSAM SMALL.

San Francisco.

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Monday, March 4, 1968

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## A Change of Heart About Vietnam

Editor—Having frequently defended our effort in Vietnam in numerous debates around the Bay Area and in letters to the editor during the past two years, I feel some responsibility to make known my change of view as the result of the recent Viet Cong offensive.

My basic position was and is that the aggressive intentions of Communist China pose a serious threat to world peace, that wars of "national liberation" such as that being waged by the Vietnam Communists are the chosen means of Chinese political expansion, and that only the United States can stabilize the Asian situation by providing a balance of power against China. The question remains, is Vietnam an appropriate situation for U.S. action to implement this policy?

We have now made a major effort to stop aggression in Vietnam . . . We have committed 500,000 men to the effort but the Viet Cong offensive has demonstrated that all this effort has not gained us any significant advantage in the struggle.

Supplies continue to reach the Viet Cong forces in the South, including much larger weapons than were being used in earlier years. The people of South Vietnam's cities and towns remain so indifferent to their government and to our effort that they took no action to warn the government against the Viet Cong forces being placed among them in preparation for the attacks. We have failed to persuade the Hanoi government to abandon its effort to take over the South; we have not noticeably discouraged or demoralized the people of the North. Our pacification efforts, together with our ability to provide security to rural areas, have been effectively terminated by the Viet Cong attacks. And the cities, long believed secure, have become part of the battle ground. We have no reason to believe we are any closer to success in halting the aggression than we were three years ago.

In order to compel the halt of military action and terrorism in the South, it now appears that very substantial additional forces will be needed. When a main force action began to take shape at Khe Sanh, we had to strip our pacification forces to provide an adequate response. To man both the pacified countryside and actions against main force units, and to garrison the cities and towns, now a necessary step, would appear to require doubling and perhaps tripling our present force of half a million men.

At this point, when it is clear that just a little more effort will not do the trick, we have to consider whether such an expanded involvement will advance our overall objectives. It may lessen our willingness to respond to other situations in Asia and elsewhere. It will inevitably have the effect of destroying the buildings, much of the social structure and many of the communities and people of South Vietnam, which we are trying to protect. It will mean still further reduction in the funds and national energy available to attack the very serious problem of the black people of America, a problem which has come to constitute a threat to our continued existence as a free people comparable to those we face abroad. And the increase of our effort may result too in active involvement of the Chinese, and World War III.

My conclusion is that Vietnam has received all the U.S. effort its importance warrants, and a graceful withdrawal is our best course.

We have already demonstrated that we are not a paper tiger, and that we remain willing and able to make a stand against Communist aggression in Asia. The chosen Chinese tactic of war of national liberation will have succeeded in Vietnam only at great cost to the Communists, and under favorable circumstances hard to find elsewhere. We will have the resources available to assist other peoples, such as those of Thailand, more

motivated and more devoted to their government than those of South Vietnam, to resist similar efforts by Communist forces, and prevent the dominoes from falling. And we will be able to get on with the vital task of bringing black Americans into the mainstream of American life.

ALAN S. MAREMONT  
San Francisco

### 'Courageous Teachers'

Editor—The Chronicle asks the teachers to show consideration for the community by not striking, but I suggest it is time the community show consideration for the teachers, and work with them to improve education in San Francisco . . .

As a parent, I support the strikers, and admire their courage to put their positions in jeopardy by standing up publicly for what they believe to be good educational policies. I want my children to have the same opportunities of education as those of my friends in the suburbs. I resent having to settle for less . . .

SIEGLINDE ONDERDONK  
San Francisco

### American Foreign Legion

Editor — I have wondered for a long time why the United States doesn't start a fighting legion similar to the French Foreign Legion — a fighting unit of the government, but made up chiefly of volunteers from other countries . . .

By forming such a legion we would save the lives of many of our young men who never had a chance to live but who are dying now in Vietnam.

I for one would join. I'm not running from anything. I'm strong, spent three years in the army, but I don't think I could pass a strict physical. I would like a chance to fight for this great country, even if I am pushing forty . . .

AL WILMAN  
Carmel

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Tuesday, March 5, 1968

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## 'The Issue Is America'

Editor — More and more Americans are beginning to realize that our intervention in Vietnam has become a massive, senseless obscenity that defiles the very essence of America — an ill advised adventure in which we appear to be imprisoned by the irrational compulsion of our leaders to reinforce error rather than recognize misjudgment and miscalculation.

The "restlessness" which our President senses among us is not merely impatience or resentment of futile sacrifice. Not "restlessness" but fear haunts our nation — fear that there may be no limit to what a desperate leadership may do to escape from admitting its mistakes.

When the youth of America, confronted with the dilemmas presented to it by an older generation, sees newsreels of innocent civilians being killed by American bombs and others maimed and rendered homeless — when it sees brave Americans giving up their lives in the name of democracy in order to maintain in power a corrupt, inefficient and unpopular regime of feuding generals and mandarins — it is small wonder that few are inspired with patriotic fervor; and small wonder that mothers and fathers — even fathers who have served in other wars — are torn between patriotic loyalty and anxious doubt. For it is doubt as to the righteousness of this war that mingles, in all age groups, with the sadness, shame and disgust evoked by the sight of women and children incinerated, of pitiful peasant huts set afire and of the crumpled heaps of American dead.

There is a growing realization that this war is but the latest step in the regression of Western civilization into primitive barbarism that began when Hitler made ex-

termination a mode of warfare and when Britain and the United States, reluctantly at first, retaliated with obliteration raids in which hundreds of thousands of civilians in Germany and Japan were fried alive in seas of flame deliberately kindled. The dawn of the nuclear age did not inaugurate the descent into savagery. When Truman and Churchill learned at Potsdam that "the babies had been born" at Alamogordo, the dehumanization of war had already reached a point at which they felt no qualms about using the new weapons of mass murder and destruction that science and technology had placed in their hands. Nor did the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki prevent later leaders from adopting a policy of "massive retaliation." Only the nuclear stalemate between the United States and the Soviet Union has — so far — saved the people of Vietnam from nuclear holocaust.

The issue Americans face in this election year is broader than finding "an honorable way out of Vietnam." A way must be found out of the moral morass into which our civilization has floundered. We need to find leaders who will recognize that our nation has lost its bearings, has over-reached itself and, in so doing, has wasted its moral and material substance. The alternative to a continuation of current policy is not a retreat into isolationism. What is needed is a reappraisal of what are America's true vital interests, its proper responsibilities and the effective limits of its power. Only in the context of such a reappraisal will withdrawal from Vietnam go down in history not as a defeat but as the moral rebirth of a great nation.

The issue is not Vietnam. The issue is America — what sort of nation we want America to be and what part we wish it to play in a world in which all war has become a threat to the survival of civilization.

JAMES P. WARBURG.

Deerfield Beach, Florida.

## An Open Sesame

Editor — Why are colleges throughout the land so overcrowded, and why are so many of the students in these colleges taking courses which are not designed for any particular profession? The answer, according to Rep. Albert H. Quie (R-Minn.) is the old myth, honored by parents and politicians, that college is the open sesame to success. The fact that so many of the students drop out, and prove useless for the job market, seems to give the lie to this outworn belief.

In the meantime, vocational schools devoted to occupational preparation receive comparatively little support. The solution would seem to be early vocational training to provide job skills at the high school level, for those who prefer not to attend college. Many trades suffer for a lack of trained applicants, for these skills are not taught in college.

GEORGE MALSBARY.

Berkeley.

## What Reagan Needs

Editor — What Governor Reagan really needs is a plain, old-fashioned bookkeeper who will get the cyphers in the right column. The 160,000 poor people whom he planned to drop from the state's mental assistance program have suffered untold anxieties over the threat.

BERNICE Z. STEELE.

San Francisco.

## 'It's Outmoded'

Editor — I hope the Vietnam war will prove for all time that in this age of intercontinental ballistic missiles ground wars are as outmoded as the generals and the politicians who sponsor them.

At least the Russians think so, and they see to it that someone else does the fighting while they say "sic 'em."

H. R. DOERING.

Berkeley.

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Wednesday, March 6, 1968



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## 'Let Us Pray'

Editor—Max Rafferty was recently quoted as saying "nothing but an act of God" would stop him from running against Thomas Kuchel. Let us pray.

BOB MEHUS.

Walnut Creek.

## Pointing a Finger

Editor—I am shocked at the tone of comments I have heard, criticizing the San Francisco teachers who struck our schools Friday. If blame is called for, let us aim it at the real causes of Friday's action: a school administration and a Board of Education who have not yet shown themselves capable of dealing creatively with the problems of urban education, and an apathetic community which has largely ignored the deteriorating quality of public instruction in San Francisco.

The deplorable thing about Friday's strike is that committed professionals were forced to make this painful gesture in order to set in motion some kind of mechanism to alleviate the sad situation in most of our schools.

ROSE LOU RANDOLPH

San Francisco.

## J. Alfred Liberal

Editor—Arthur Hoppe's Sunday column "R.I.P., Liberal," was even more witty and perceptive than usual, but his sad story of St. Peter's reception of the guilt-laden "J. Alfred Liberal" has unduly pessimistic implications. . . . It is a fact though that nearly all of the vast volume of social reform, educational progress, and growth of progressive ideas since 1920 has been due to the untiring and persistent efforts of J. Alfred Liberal and his small band of active fellow believers — to the members of the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, ADA, CIO, LID, Socialist party, NAACP, CORE, et al. Most of the domestic planks in the 1920 platform of the Socialist party have been enacted into law by liberals and the politicians they influence, not by socialists. The many liberals

domestic reforms approved by LBJ's first Congress are the latest convincing evidence of liberal effectiveness. And when the war in Vietnam is over, the inevitable flow of liberal reform will resume in Congress, State legislatures and city councils, as predicted in detail in my recent book, "The Next 500 Years."

Liberals are guilt ridden because they feel they could have been more effective. They ought to feel proud of what they have accomplished. It is the conservatives who should feel guilty, for they have continuously opposed and delayed social progress.

BURNHAM P. BECKWITH.

Menlo Park.

## Snooping

Editor—I was disturbed to read the letter advocating rewards for locating guns stored in homes and suggesting that children be used to snoop out what is stored in garages.

The Nazis started the same way. Children reported where their parents went, the books they read and who they saw. I too suggest we stay alert — for signs of 1984.

VARDA MURRELL.

Rosamond, Calif

## 'Disenfranchised'

Editor—I was one of those standing after Don Stevens made his speech before the Mill Valley city council Monday night, as you reported, but it was not to give him an ovation, it was because all the seats at this obviously stacked meeting had been filled early by the bead, badge and beard wearers of the Peace and Freedom party.

One of the things Stevens said to the council was: "You were elected the leaders of the people!" This I think spotlights the whole affair.

These men were actually elected to act as representatives of the people — but neither the council nor its Vietnam withdrawal resolution Monday night were representative of the people of Mill Valley. Other action to permit the

people to vote on this matter after the fact, after the resolution in their name had gone on its way and had its effect, was a mere sop to opposition: the resolution was simply a disenfranchisement of Mill Valley's citizens. Perhaps next November they will cast our votes for president also.

CARL HEPP.

Mill Valley.

## The Big Fight

Editor — A proposal. Put Mr. Lyndon Johnson and Mr. Ho Chi Minh in an arena. Give each a gun or sword. They are given the choice of a fight to the death, winner take all (meaning a victory in Vietnam), or a negotiated settlement. You watch how fast they negotiate, rather than put their own lives on the line.

KURT G. LESWING.

San Francisco.

## 'Welcome Back, McCabe'

Editor—McCabe's column Monday ("Notes on a Windbag") reflects another example of freedom of the press that permits a lamebrain reporter to attack good men. California voters elected Max Rafferty and "You Know Who" Reagan because they wanted these fine men in office. I suggest you report something good for a change. Help restore the true image of authority and law and order through public respect. You may not set sales records but you should sleep better.

H. A. ROBERTSON

Palo Alto

Mr. Robertson, meet Mr. Smith, below.—Editor.

• • •

Editor—For every thousand, middle-aged, dogmatic, frozen-minded members of the so-called Establishment, there is one Charles McCabe. This is reason enough, I suppose, to take heart and smile. It is also reason enough to subscribe to The Chronicle

DEAN SMITH.

Berkeley

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Thursday, March 7, 1968



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## **A Pill for Courage**

Editor — As a father and an American I am deeply disturbed by continual reports by news correspondents that up to 80 per cent of our troops in Vietnam take marijuana. Even if it's only 50 per cent I cannot approve.

It seems to me that the richest and most powerful nation in the world could have by this time developed a pill — a harmless pill — that would give our boys courage when going into battle, so that our youngsters would not have to rely on something as destructive, evil, soul degrading and habit forming as marijuana.

MARK HAWKINS.

San Francisco.

## **Mayor That Knows How**

Editor — If memory serves, you did not support Joseph Alioto during the mayoralty campaign. In all fairness I must admit that I cast my vote for him with a great deal of reluctance, but I trust that you will agree with me that based on his performance so far he is doing a tremendous job at City Hall. My personal feeling is that "The City That Knows How" finally has a mayor that knows how.

DONALD E. COMBS.

San Francisco

## **'Save the Zephyr'**

Editor — The California Zephyr Movement in San Francisco is currently working to promote rediscovery of the unique and vastly underrated scenic experience of travel by the California Zephyr between San Francisco and Chicago.

We maintain that there is value beyond estimation in the extraordinary views of America offered every day to both native Americans and visitors traveling over this route; that the train is eminently practical by being faster than the car, often cheaper than the plane, and safer than both; that avenues such as the Zephyr are needed to promote understanding with peo-

ple from other countries in a comfortable, relaxed and dignified atmosphere.

All concerned persons are encouraged to write as soon as possible to the Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, D.C., 20423, to object to the proposed discontinuation of the California Zephyr. Hearings are set for late this month. Since Western Pacific, the petitioning railroad, has indicated that a mail car would virtually eliminate passenger losses, we also suggest writing to the Postmaster General.

KEVIN C. MAHONEY,

California Zephyr Movement.

San Francisco

## **'Chamberlain's Heirs'**

Editor — You published the kindly advice of Messrs. Allaun, Atkinson, Kerr, Mendelson, Mikardo and Orme, members of the British Parliament in your letters column February 29.

These men must be the emotional and political heirs of Prime Minister "Peace in Our Time" Chamberlain.

I suggest they read "Make No Mistake, America Is Fighting for Us," by Bernard Levin, published in the London Daily Mail February 1. The article is also available in the February 26 U.S. News and World Report.

L. STEVENSON.

Fairfax.

## **Who's Next?**

Editor — Congratulations to Alan S. Maremont for his courageous and well thought out letter on Vietnam March 5.

Having discussed and debated our involvement in Vietnam with Alan over the past three years I know the extent of his study and the depth of his feeling about this matter, which makes his declaration all the more important.

I believe he has put his finger on the essential, deciding factor of our military involvement there, viz. the relationship of effort and

cost in men, morale and money against the possible result. For me the balance tipped against administration policy when in 1964 they transformed the Vietnam civil war into an American war against the NLF and North Vietnam. For Alan this decision came with the realization that three years of massive effort and 500,000 men got us no closer to a solution. I wonder when Professor Robert Scalapino, one of the foremost defenders of the Administration's policy, will feel that the effort and cost no longer balance the possible end result.

More importantly, I wonder when President Johnson will realize that the time has come when we must negotiate the one and only matter which is negotiable for us in this war — the safe and orderly withdrawal of our armies from this tortured land.

ROBERT E. GOMPERS.

Atherton.

## **'Grab Nixon'**

Editor — When we Americans elect a vice president we realize he is presidential material also, treat him as such and expect as much.

So when Richard Nixon held that office he was able to travel, meet other national dignitaries, learn their needs and problems with a personal attitude and a legal mind. So, why do we not grab the man most fitted for office and be glad he's available now.

I do not think the world is round; it's many-sided and upside down.

JEAN E. BUTLER.

Oakland.

## **Head Count**

Editor — Every time I hear one of our hawkish middle-aged policy makers railing about "buckling up our belts" for fighting in Vietnam I am always inclined to wonder how many of them have sons or sons-in-law at the front. It certainly would be interesting to have a head count.

MRS. PETER J. MASTERS.

Lafayette.

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Friday, March 8, 1948

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Love in the Streets

Editor—We think it is commendable that Mayor Alioto is closing off Haight street on Sunday afternoon for the hippies.

We suggest that he do this in other sections of the city to allow the general population to become acquainted with these love children. He could begin by blocking off the street in front of his house and neighborhood.

RUTH JENKINS.

San Francisco.

## No Image-Maker

Editor—Not many of us get the opportunity to look at half a million dollars, and those few of us who do are not likely to turn away from it.

So when a business firm does so on conscience and principle alone, I believe the action warrants special attention. This was the case within the past few days of the public relations firm of Ruder and Finn, headquartered in New York, with a branch office in San Francisco.

According to a news report in The Chronicle March 4, this agency has for several years been a representative of the Greek government. When the quasi-fascist military junta took over, this new government offered Ruder and Finn \$500,000 a year to give it a better image in American eyes. Rather than prostitute its principles, this agency resigned the account.

GODFREY LEHMAN.

San Francisco.

## Nuclear Inspiration

Editor—Royce Brier's March 6 column eloquently summarized the disastrous political effects on the United States should the Pentagon decide to use nuclear weapons in Vietnam. What remains to be noted is the even more disastrous military effects such use would entail. First, the use of nuclear weapons would confirm to the world the impotence of con-

ventional military forces and technology in Vietnam. Second, by virtue of the dispersion and self-reliance of its people, Vietnam would be the most difficult country in the world to obliterate by nuclear weapons.

The prospect of the Vietnamese continuing the struggle after a nuclear attack, would inspire revolutionaries all over the world and would prove what the Pentagon had hoped to disprove: that military techniques cannot suppress a political struggle.

JOHN H. FRENSTER, M.D.

Atherton.

## Intent to Riot?

Editor—I was quite angry about the anti-riot rider to the Senate's Civil Rights Bill. I felt that the wording was such that anti-civil rights officials could jail anyone from out of state during or after a disturbance which they chose to call a riot.

The same Chronicle that gave this account also reported the serious riot that occurred during the visit to Nebraska of Presidential hopeful George Wallace. One Negro youth was killed, 13 injured, etc.

Now, if following the visit of the Alabaman to Nebraska a riot ensues — who is to say or describe the intent?

DON LANE.

San Leandro.

## 'Scurrilous Attack'

Editor—I am sure that the doctors of heretical philosophy were delighted to read Lester Kinsolving's scurrilous attack on the many members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod who want to obey God rather than men, who choose to believe the truths of God's word rather than the lies of men.

Through His prophet, Jeremiah, God said: "Let him who has My Word speak My Word faithfully. I am against those who lead My people astray by their lies."

At its 1967 convention in New

York, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod resolved, "That we pray in this day of theological unrest and confusion that God by His mercy keep us faithful to His inspired and inerrant Word as the only rule and norm of faith and practice."

Another resolution was adopted, "That the Synod reject and condemn all those world views, philosophical theories, exegetical interpretations, and other hypotheses which pervert biblical teachings and thus obscure the Gospel."

Those liberal professors and preachers who no longer believe the Word of God should repudiate their ordination vow and quit calling themselves Lutherans.

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul says of those to whom were intrusted the oracles of God: "What if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? Certainly not! Let God be true, but every man a liar."

REV. JOHN H. RISCHE,  
Bayview Lutheran Church.

San Francisco.

## Immigrants and Economy

Editor — May I, as a visiting Englishman, add a comment to your excellent editorial on "Britain's Color Quota"?

It is simply this: If a large number of British citizens (of any shade) arrive from Africa, they have little choice but to join the already large pool of unemployed, having few skills relevant to an industrialized country.

They will therefore be forced to congregate into slum area ghettos and live largely on national assistance handouts until the economy improves — which may well be a long time hence.

These are precisely the conditions which lead to racial unrest and violence, and the Labor government is simply taking the present unpopular and uncharacteristic steps in an attempt to avoid otherwise predictable conflict.

J. WATSON.

Davis.

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Monday, March 11, 1968

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## No Room at the Lot

Editor — Congratulations to Judge Ames and anyone else who finds a parking place near the city hall. Anyone who has attempted to park and be in time for jury duty can only admire their resourcefulness. The Judge is right — present parking is far from adequate. The Chronicle might better campaign for more adequate parking facilities for the Civic Center. And leave room for the juror.

CATHERINE S. LYON.

San Francisco.

## Needed—Moral Courage

Editor — Mr. Hawkins (Letters, March 8) asks American science to develop a pill for courage so our boys in Vietnam can fight more valiantly. American soldiers needed no valor pills in World War II — at Normandy or Iwo Jima or any other battlefield. Their cause was just and they knew it. If American troops retreat into the unreal world of marijuana in Vietnam it is because this nation is fighting a grossly immoral and insane war there, destroying a people and a land in the name of defense against communism. American soldiers must be growing aware of the terrible disgrace the war is bringing upon us all: Valor pills are not needed in Vietnam; only the moral courage to withdraw — now.

ANTHONY MANN.

Portola Valley.

## 'It's Been Coming'

Editor — Those of us who live in places like Oakland don't need a President's Commission to tell us about the trouble brewing in our cities. We have seen it coming, but our warnings and concerns have fallen on deaf ears.

We are educated, white professional persons who live in the hill area. The ghetto is far away and out of sight in the flatlands, but the lives, health, welfare and education of the people who are forced to live there touch us all.

It would seem that this Congress and this Administration will

go down in history as one that pursued a senseless war in a foreign land while its own country suffered from poverty and discrimination. We hide our heads in the sand and find it easier to help an oppressed people in Vietnam than admit we have people just as oppressed at home. Whether you want it or not the black Americans are going to have to be brought into the mainstream of American life.

The money Congress is so willing to appropriate for war or for police riot weapons should, and must, be spent instead on improving housing and schools and income for poverty-stricken Americans.

PAUL & OLIVIA ROUSSEAU.

Oakland.

## Peace Affects All

Editor — As chairman of the Peace and Freedom party in Marin county and a resident of Mill Valley, I would like to answer Carl Hepp's accusations against the Peace and Freedom party.

Yes, the Council chambers were filled that Monday night, filled with concerned citizens voicing their dissent against the war. For Mr. Hepp to state that the meeting was stacked "by the beard, badge and beard wearers of the Peace and Freedom party" is to degrade the participation of those citizens and to degrade himself as a judge of the character of the people who attended.

I believe that it is the proper function of government on all levels to be concerned with peace, for peace affects us on all levels.

The cities and states of this nation cannot even begin to help themselves when so much time, energy and money is spent on the self-defeating war in Vietnam.

WARREN LEVINSON.

Mill Valley.

## Foul

Editor — When the South Vietnam forces bomb the Hanoi area etc., the dissenters cry foul — America the murderer is killing innocent civilians and destroying

hospitals. But one hears no dissensions over the ruthless attacks on the South by the Viet Cong — the calculated killing of their own countrymen and destruction of the villages and cities, including hospitals. It would do well for those dissenters to cry foul to Hanoi.

RAYMOND KUNTZ.

Dublin.

## A Great Danger

Editor — Lawrence Fertig's column, "Union Violence and the Law" in The Chronicle financial section March 2 was outstanding.

The greatest danger today is the insatiable demand for power by the so-called labor leaders. One article after another is going to be priced out of the market and a raise in wages can only come from one source — depreciation in the value of the dollar. In the last two decades we have seen over 40 per cent erosion and there is certainly nothing in sight to stop it.

We have seen the convenience of the public utterly flouted. The situation in San Francisco — without newspapers for two months — and pay raises obtained with utter disregard for any possible increased productivity. We have seen the copper industry tied up for months by demands of labor leaders that are unconscionable.

B. T. ROCCA, SR.

San Francisco.

## Breeding Hostages?

Editor — On your editorial page of the March 3 Chronicle Sunday Punch you advance the reason of "expensive babies" for the lowest birth rate in this country's history. No doubt this is one of the reasons, but another may be that so many people are weary and leery of this war-mad century. No century in the history of mankind has lost so many millions of lives in warfare as this. There are many people, like myself, who refuse to breed hostages for the atomic age.

ROY WOLFE

San Francisco.

# San Francisco Chronicle

THE VOICE OF THE BAY

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Tuesday, March 12, 1968





# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## 'Kiss of Death'

Editor — Walter Lippmann, a political pundit with questionable credentials, has given Nelson Rockefeller the "kiss of death." By endorsing him for the Republican nomination, and espousing his victory in November (The Chronicle Sunday Punch, March 10) he has assured the necessary Conservative Opposition which guarantees the Convention Deadlock needed to give Ronald Reagan the nomination.

An Occurrence, by the way, which should be the hope of all who would restore to the Republican party the Highest of Ideals.

THOMAS M. EDWARDS.

San Francisco.

## 'Serve Pot'

Editor — With reference to Mark Hawkins letter March 8 stating his concern for "our boys courage" and pot smoking (destructive, evil, soul degrading and habit forming) on the battlefields of Vietnam, I would like to inform this American father that the dangers of marijuana smoking on the battlefield would be the awareness and horror at having to kill a fellow human being, hence, a reluctance to get into a battle at all.

A little "pot" at a conference table, with both sides debating the issues, would eliminate the whole damned desire to put "our boys courage" to test.

NAME WITHHELD.

## Decline of the Train

Editor—Regarding Kevin Mahoney's letter "Save the Zephyr," the gentleman has completely overlooked the fact that the present equipment used on the train is approximately 20 years old, approaching dilapidation, and must soon be replaced (or drastically rebuilt) if the train is to continue to operate. It is the high cost of replacing this equipment which the three roads involved seem unable to justify in the light of the passenger train situation in this country.

As for a mail-car on the Zephyr, these are being removed from passenger trains throughout the country by the Post Office Department in favor of other methods of handling the mails. It is too much to hope that they would place such a car on the Zephyr in an effort to save the train.

ROBERT G. MANETTE.

San Francisco.

## Reston Reports

Editor—James Reston's Report in last Friday's Chronicle — "Johnson and Perils of Personality" is the most concise, thorough and frightening summation of our country's paramount problem today: the dictatorship, informed by emotion and personal vainglory, of Lyndon B. Johnson. None of our major problems, domestic or international, may be solved, indeed they are only likely to get worse, as long as Johnson remains in power.

WILLIAM K. GLOZER.

Mendocino.

## Not This Year

Editor—On February 19 I received a lengthy letter from Philip S. Boone, President of the S.F. Symphony Association explaining the financial settlement made between the Musicians Union, the Orchestra and the Association. So far as I can judge, it is a reasonable settlement and I cannot take exception to it. . . .

I know that the Symphony needs money and I have given for years. However, this year I am not going to contribute any money to support this or any other cultural enterprise, and here are my reasons.

My quibble is with the officers and Board of Governors and the manner in which they take part, or rather do not noticeably take part, in the civic life of our city.

Since I am not privy to the word of mouth grapevine news of the affairs of these people and the section of society which they represent, I must rely on the newspapers for my knowledge of them. I

assume that if they did not like the type of image represented there, they would seek to change it.

Over the years, I have seen many of these people photographed many, many times and their activities reported in detail. In fact, the social pages are rarely free of news of one or more of them on any day one might pick at random. Their activities, as reported, consist of lunching here or dining there or swilling champagne somewhere else. In all that time, I have yet to read an item in which one of them attended a Board of Education meeting and rose in wrath over the dreadful conditions in some of our public schools. I don't know that any sought to ameliorate the conditions at Juvenile Hall or in our emergency hospitals until a new one is built. I haven't seen them mount a campaign for desperately needed child care centers in Hunters Point or the Fillmore district. It's true, they do bring children to the Opera House, but what support do they give to community music centers?

If they really do support various community activities, why aren't they photographed doing the work instead of drinking at the benefit? Perhaps there are exceptions to the rule, but it will take a lot of digging in the newspaper morgue to find them.

It is my impression that these officials and directors are far more interested in maintaining their "social butterfly" image than they are in improving the actual health and welfare of the whole community. The symphony and opera are their playthings and the way they maintain their status.

I am not trying to change the newspaper or the "system" as it is now run. I only wish to point out that Mr. Boone's statement in his letter that the orchestra is a "community-wide enterprise" is a tissue-thin fiction used only on the occasion of fund raising. Until these people really involve themselves in community action, I am not contributing. Until they change, they will have to foot the bill.

—MRS. JOHN SIGEL—

San Francisco.

**San Francisco Chronicle**

THE VOICE OF THE CITY

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Wednesday, March 22, 1940

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## **The War**

Editor—Our American men are at war — fighting for our future freedom here. Unless we have total victory in Vietnam we will lose it. Communism has spread like a cancer. There's nothing good about it. It is total slavery.

I don't care how our country wins, but win it must.

MRS ANNE McGLYNN

Palm Springs.

• • •

Editor—Why are the doves screaming about the war in Vietnam ending?

Settle it today and the Democratic party will find another spot somewhere on the globe to meddle in . . . Have guns, will travel! Have economy at home to bolster and keep Democratic party votes in line.

The dumbest Communist in the world can see the strategy is to wreck the economy without firing a shot, plus killing off the young men while the misfits and the rabble continue to breed a nation of morons.

LBJ will be elected again because the GOP does not want to win a presidential election. Our allies, who are not as stupid as we are, know America better than we know ourselves.

W. B. GARVALEN

San Leandro.

## **Lottery for BART**

Editor—Several schemes have been proposed to finance the BART system. Among them have been a gasoline tax, increase in auto license fees and increase in bridge tolls — all of which would subject citizens to an unfair squeeze.

If our representatives in Sacramento would wake up and take a broader view, they would realize that BART's financial difficulties could be overcome by a State lottery, run by the government.

Considering the money that

goes from California to Nevada gambling establishments and to the Irish Sweepstakes, a state government lottery should be carefully re-considered.

P. T. O'NEILL

San Francisco.

## **Speaking for the Woods**

Editor—Thank you for Scott Thurber's story and your editorial about the Sierra Club and the IRS threat to conservation. May I suggest an alternate fact, impression, and solution?

1. Fact: The club has not lost its tax status. Had we lost it, we could have gone to court and to Congress long before this to try to clear things up. What the IRS did was to cloud our tax status by stating it could no longer guarantee that contributions made after June 10, 1966, would be deductible, pending investigation. They investigated, proposed in December 1966 to revoke our deductibility, gave us until May 1967 to protest their proposal, and have been silent ever since. The major donations we need have gone elsewhere, and presumably bequests, too. Other conservation organizations have been intimidated, their essential legislative work severely inhibited, while the IRS makes up its mind.

2. Impression: We are grateful for public support, for the people who have joined the club or otherwise contributed, either in dollars or in letters to Congress urging the vital legislative support for the Grand Canyon, the Redwoods, and a score of other battles. But perish the thought that we are adequately financed! Our operating losses curtail what we must do in behalf of wilderness around the world; of urging that man's technology, science, and genius be directed to the 90 per cent or so of the earth he has already touched, gently or brutally; of preserving the right of nature to continue its own good course in the wilderness which holds answers to questions man has not yet learned how to ask. We need more contributions to help

make this goal clear. The address: Sierra Club, Mills Tower, San Francisco 94104.

3. Solution: Neither the Sierra Club nor any other conservation organization — all of them concerned chiefly in being a voice for a wilderness that cannot speak for itself, should be placed in the position of having to make unsubstantial efforts in behalf of its avowed purpose. The solution is not to have one administrator modify what he did to us in 1966 in the process of reversing his predecessor's course. We need administrative decisions, but must be aware of the administrative ease of reversing them. That is why there are legislative and judicial bodies too. It is these bodies that need to be brought in to clarify this important issue, to protect the rights of those who speak in the public interest, and not their own, for the purposes for which they were formed, and in behalf of vital parts of our environment that have no other voice.

When the Grand Canyon is in danger, a substantial conservation organization ought to be able to put plenty of substance, legislative or otherwise, into letting the public and Congress know about the danger. We are grateful for your help in this very cause.

DAVID BROWER,  
Executive Director.

San Francisco.

## **Dreadful Sickness**

Editor — Professor Harry Edwards, in announcing that he plans to quit his job at San Jose State College, says he plans to resume graduate studies at Cornell "if I live through the summer."

In view of his survival thus far, it would seem that such pessimism is unwarranted, unless he expects to be consumed by his own "hate Whitey" syndrome. Such a fate is indeed conceivable, because hate is a dreadful sickness which has been known to kill men who harbor it.

STANLEY McNAIL

San Francisco.

**San Francisco Chronicle**  
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

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Thursday, March 14, 1968



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## God on Their Side?

Editor — A fantastic wonder of the modern world is how a tiny rice-paddied country like North Vietnam, whose principal mode of transportation is by bicycle, can advance against the most powerful military power in the world.

To people of all degrees of faith, it is beginning to look very much like God is on their side, incongruous as that may seem.

STUART OLIVER.

Oakland.

## 'Honkies' and 'Niggers'

Editor — A black speaker at San Francisco State College calls whites honkies and he is applauded.

Would a white speaker be allowed to use the word niggers?

CARLA STACEY.

San Francisco.

## Time to Say No

Editor — The rulers of this country have persistently answered the opponents of their war policy with the cry that we must support our boys. That reply has always been disingenuous as well as irrelevant because it knowingly distorts and confuses the issue.

It has nonetheless been effective. That is because it intimidates millions of Americans who are deeply troubled, morally and pragmatically, by the foreign policy of the rulers of this country. Those millions have been made hesitant to act through a false appeal to their abiding patriotism and their loyalty to the men who have been sent to war in their name.

It is a dirty game at home as well as a dirty war in Vietnam.

But the lie has now been laid bare. For at Khe Sanh, it is clear for all to see that the rulers of this country are using our men as pawns for their own pride and as

shields for their own incompetence.

As one trained to be a professional military leader, and who served in that capacity during World War II, I weep for those Marines. For beneath the leather, I know, their necks are warm and soft and human. I also cry out in anger against the misuse of brave men.

There comes a time when patriotism and loyalty are defined by the will to say no. To say no in anger and revulsion at such un-American behavior. Patriotism is now the act of telling the rulers of this country that they are killers, not of our dream, but of the very life of our country.

WILLIAM APPLEMAN  
WILLIAMS.

Madison, Wisconsin.

Mr. Williams is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, professor of history at the University of Wisconsin, and author of several books on American diplomacy.—  
Editor.

## Prelude to Peace

Editor — There can be no hope for peace in Vietnam or anywhere until the conflicts between the Soviet Union and the United States are resolved . . .

The conflicts on our part will only be resolved when the capitalists admit that capitalism is unable to match the needs of society; when the Christians realize that they are becoming the false Christ they preach against; and when we realize that society is almost always superior to any one individual in it.

Unless we reject the image of the American as a cross-bearing, free enterprising rugged individualist determined to save the world from devils for our gods, then we, because we are powerful, will, to paraphrase another's comments, destroy the human race to save it.

The only fear of communism we should have is that we will become victims of our own insecurities and constrict ourselves at a time when

we should give the broadest meaning to our possibilities.

The real issues today are not crime in the streets or peace in Vietnam but whether the world is a family of equals . . .

SAHAG AVEDISIAN.

Berkeley.

## The Wizard of Oz

Editor — I was amused to read in Herb Caen's column March 5 that the S.F. Public Library Coordinator Effie Lee Morris thinks the "Oz" books are "below the acceptable level" for today's children. It is surprising that anyone holding such a position should fail to see the real drawback to the Oz books — namely, that the vocabulary used is difficult enough that only skilled young readers can understand it before the sphere of interest is outgrown. Nevertheless, it is a rewarding experience to watch youngsters, entranced by the stories, struggling with strange words in order to find out what happens next.

Our local book search service has a steady demand for these "badly written" books, and it has taken a long time, much effort, and a small fortune to complete a set for my three children, who have all enjoyed them to the fullest, as I still do . . .

MARY I. MARCHISI.

Saratoga.

## Semper Fi

Editor — It was my distinct pleasure to pass through San Francisco last weekend on a business trip.

As an ex-Marine, I dig "what's happening." I had the proud American opportunity to personally attempt to thank each obvious veteran of Vietnam as I passed through the air terminal on my way.

A few of these great guys thought I was rip city, but I'd like to say again thank you, particularly to all of the Semper Fis.

ALEX PAWLOWSKI.

Santa Barbara.

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