

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Judicial Appointments

Editor — Governor Reagan's so-called "Merit Plan" for the selection of judges purports to remove political considerations and particularly the influence of the Governor himself. The Governor has stated that the proposed plan "would clearly take the appointment of judges out of politics." The President of the State Bar has proclaimed "Never before has a Governor so willingly and unselfishly made a sacrifice of this greatest of all appointive powers, solely in the interests of improving statewide administration of justice . . . it would usher our judicial system into a new and enlightened era." Unfortunately, these optimistic generalizations cannot stand up when the proposal is examined carefully.

Under the proposal, whenever there is an appointment to be made, a commission will submit names to the Governor. The Governor can only appoint one of those persons. Three of the six members of the commission are appointed by the Governor.

This has all been explained many times. The point that is almost never mentioned by proponents of the plan is that the commission must act by a two-thirds vote, that is, four out of six. This means that the three members of the commission who are not appointed by the Governor can never, by their votes alone, submit a name to the Governor. In other words, the three members appointed by the Governor can prevent any name from being selected. In practical effect, therefore, the Governor's appointees will have an absolute veto power. Although this is clearly an extremely important point, it is never discussed in the many descriptions and "explanations" put out by proponents of the plan.

This feature — the veto power in the hands of the Governor's appointees — makes the proposed plan completely different from other merit plans which have been adopted elsewhere. The plan recently adopted in Oklahoma allows the Governor to appoint only six

out of thirteen commission members. The new Utah plan gives the Governor only two appointments to a seven-member commission. No plan devised by legal scholars or actually adopted in any other state gives the Governor's appointees an absolute veto power such as is provided for (but never discussed) in Governor Reagan's proposal. Viewed in this perspective the proposed plan falls far short of being an "unselfish sacrifice" of power that would "usher our judicial system into a new and enlightened era."

The method of appointing judges is a matter of great importance. If we are going to amend our Constitution to reduce the Governor's power, let's really do it, not just pretend to do it. It would be very easy to set up the plan so that the Governor's power really is reduced, if the desire to do that is genuine — simply reduce the number of his appointments to the commission, following the example of the Utah and Oklahoma plans. If that is not done we must regretfully conclude that the purpose or the proposed plan is to give the appearance of reducing the Governor's power over judicial appointments without actually doing so.

STANLEY R. EVANS,

Judge of the Superior Court,
County of Santa Clara.
San Jose.

Links to the Past

Editor — It is to be sincerely hoped that the Old Mint will be preserved and put to constructive use as one of the few remaining links with San Francisco's historic past.

While an excellent example of the late Greek Revival period of American architectural design it is not, however, the last of such remaining structures of that style in California.

The Marin County Courthouse in San Rafael is also an excellent example of the period, having been built at the same time and completed in 1873. Its design was the result of a competition entered

into by several of San Francisco's leading architects of that day and awarded to the firm of Kenitzer and Raun.

The Old Mint has long been designated a California Historical Landmark and application is being made to the State requesting the same recognition for the San Rafael Courthouse.

CLYDE F. TRUDELL.

Sausalito.

Tax the Tourists . . .

Editor — Mr. Alioto's commuter tax seems to me a splendid way of reducing property taxes. To reduce our taxes in Marin, I propose that we set up a special toll gate and charge San Franciscans a dollar every time they drive over to take advantage of the beautiful facilities of Marin.

MARTIN RUSSELL.

Mill Valley.

Or Tax the Commuter?

Editor — . . . I live in the city from choice and the commuter commutes from choice. But it is a fact that this city as most cities have lost a lot of potential tax money through the flight to the suburbs. The cities need financial help and the commuter is the only logical one to furnish it . . .

As I see it the whole Bay Area is an entity. San Francisco is the Manhattan of it. What we need is acceptance by the commuter of his responsibility to his working hometown as well as his sleeping hometown . . . Personally, I think it is idiotic to spend a couple hours and a couple dollars each day for the sake of putting in 8 hours of yard work on a weekend . . .

KENNETH F. STORY.

San Francisco.

War for Generations

Editor — We must not go to war to make the world safe for our grandchildren. If we do, they will go to war to make it safe for their grandchildren.

DAVE AUGUSTRON.

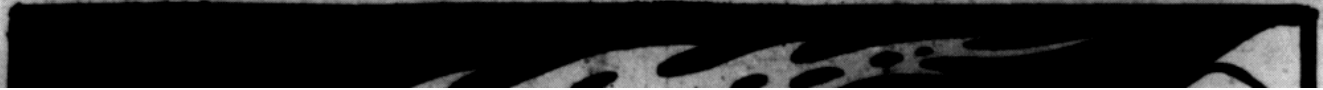
Daly City.

San Francisco Chronicle
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

44



Monday, April 1, 1968



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Claptrap'

Editor — Your March 25 editorial, "Messy Incident on Hyde Street" is not really worth a comment, except I resent it when my newspaper is cluttered with mundane claptrap like that. Please reserve your precious space for comments on the mess in Sacramento and the like.

CRAIG HANCHETT.
Berkeley.

The Dodo Bird

Editor — Governor Rockefeller's dignified statement of declination, though admirably stated, in fact, underscored the real sterility of the Republican Party.

The message is that the nomination has already been made by the party hacks in the backrooms who want to preserve their own stations and the status quo — and let the public be damned. It would be appropriate for the party to adopt a new symbol — the Dodo bird, because the destiny of the party seems to be its own extinction.

JOHN W. LEAHY.
San Francisco.

The Message

Editor — The Pentagon controls billions of dollars each year. That can buy a lot of military hardware.

But deep in the human spirit is the software that money cannot buy. Integrity and joy, love and authenticity; these are not for sale.

This is the message to the world from its young people. This is what New Hampshire and the Haight-Ashbury and Vietnam dissenters are saying.

CORINNE A. TRUE.
La Honda.

A Fast for Peace

Editor — . . . I find our participation in the Vietnam war to be completely unwarranted, immoral and imperialistic in nature. Our present government has lost all sense of proportion in its foreign policy and certainly is entirely lacking senses of justice and hu-

manity. I must therefore condemn our warring and aggressive policies in Vietnam and somehow make my protest heard and felt.

To this end I have begun a seven-day fast and I will subsequently fast one day of each week until the United States negotiates a peace or withdraws its troops from Vietnam.

Each month the money I save from not eating will be sent to some organization working to get the United States out of Vietnam.

GAIL M. DAVIS.
Berkeley.

No View from the Hill

Editor — I work in the East Bay and live in San Francisco, on Telegraph Hill. The City is now permitting construction along the waterfront which will block out my view, and the mayor is supporting an increase in Bay Bridge tolls which will increase my already high commute costs by \$50 annually.

The City That Knows How to do what? Encourage its residents to move to the suburbs?

L. E. STEVICK.
San Francisco.

And then levy a commuters' tax.
—Editor

Who Needs Enemies?

Editor — I wonder how many of your readers were as horrified and stupefied as I was to read David Leitch's Vietnam dispatch in The Chronicle March 21. I refer in particular to the remarks of two high ranking Marine officers. One said when questioned about the Khe Sanh defenses, "It was against Marine tradition to dig in," and the other stated that (after heavy bombing at Camp Carroll) sleeping in bunkers is "bad for morale."

(I vividly recall one period in Italy in World War II where after capturing a small, flat hilltop position, our company dug in securely to consolidate. Fortunately we were well underground before the Germans began an almost continuous mortaring and shelling. After four days of throwing everything they had at us, they managed to

account for two men.)

I can only be eternally thankful that I have no sons to entrust to maniacs like the two Marine officers. I expect to read any day that our troops are wearing red coats and marching in columns six abreast toward the enemy.

If it weren't so utterly tragic the whole mess in Vietnam would be a colossal joke. With men like these leading our troops who needs enemies? If this type of thinking is typical (and who can doubt it?) it is easy to see why we will never be able to extricate ourselves from this quagmire.

R. V. LATIMER.
Redwood City.

Seven-Step Help

Editor — It was heartsickening to see how little public support the Seven-Step Foundation, which assists in the rehabilitation of men out of prison, was able to garner in its worthy cause Saturday before last. The cavernous Cow Palace was almost embarrassingly empty, even though tickets were inexpensive. We all profit so highly by the successful efforts of such groups as Seven-Step that it was a shame to see how disinterested the citizenry is in helping these ex-convicts find worthwhile and respectable places in the society to which they've paid their debt.

Equally disappointing was the rudeness of hundreds of persons who did attend but who walked out in the middle of performances . . . The situation was further aggravated by the inconsideration for Seven-Step which Carol Channing and Dan Blocker demonstrated by sending last minute apologies that they were doing some "night shooting." Film making schedules are devised in advance and these stars made their commitments to the benefit early enough to work out any conflicts. God forbid Hollywood should step aside momentarily for a good cause! Believe me, Miss Channing and Mr. Blocker were not missed at all, as Pat Boone and others gave us a good show in spite of the many difficulties.

STEPHEN MARK DOBBS.
Palo Alto.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hutchins the Pessimist

Editor — Robert Hutchins' column in *The Chronicle Sunday Punch* March 17 is a general statement of depressing observations. There is much that is wrong in our nation and the position of a pessimist is always easier to support than that of an optimist. But is it possible that Robert Hutchins has been sidetracked by his depression from recognizing the good in our land?

If our country is so much of a failure then so are some of the most obvious characteristics of our freedom: frequent elections (one of de Tocqueville's major claims in 1831); the maximizing of individual rights (civil rights and a flow of information unheard of in the history of our world); the maintenance of an independent judiciary (an idea that will never be acceptable in the Communist world and will always be under attack in ours).

It troubles me that so many intellectuals like Hutchins are carried along so much by emotion that they find themselves contending that the country with the most freedom (degrees of choice available to its citizens) should be so overwhelmingly wrong.

GERSON JACOBS.

San Rafael.

Notes of a Soldier

Editor — As a young soldier reluctantly leaving for duty in Vietnam, I feel compelled to express some of my thoughts on the mounting dissent regarding the war effort and its critics and the conflict itself.

I am tired of hearing the excuse that we must not dissent because our boys in Vietnam need unified support. There is little doubt that undivided support of Administration policy would certainly help the morale of the fighting man in Vietnam. But, I ask, does this justify our current efforts in Vietnam?

Even if Communism is a great monolithic power as many claim, and could occupy Southeast Asia if we were to de-escalate or with-

draw, it is difficult to understand how this "ism" could control or dominate millions of these people when its own internal struggles are worsening.

It also appears that as we continue to deplete our resources, Communist nations merely sit back and develop their vast potential resources with little need to worry about an immediate, major confrontation with the United States. After all, the North Vietnamese are taking care of this. . . .

Perhaps young men and women would feel a much stronger allegiance to a country which considers its own domestic problems as primary instead of secondary.

GARY L. MOLINE.

San Francisco.

'It's Charming'

Editor—I find a fountain full of mermaids, turtles and frogs a delightful change from the sterile abstractions so popular with today's architects and landscape architects. Miss Asawa's sculpture is a charming addition to the fine design Mr. Halprin has created in Ghirardelli Square.

LISA H. GUTHRIE.

Sausalito.

• • •

Editor — . . . I have been in Ghirardelli Square and heard and seen the delighted reaction to the fountain. If this was not the response Mr. Halprin intended to invoke, what did he have in mind?

MRS. JOHN M. WOODBRIDGE.

San Francisco.

Keep the Experts

Editor—Cheers for Dr. Egebert in regard to his position on the task force recommendations for the Public Health Department, especially those for the advisory board.

The present board composed of ten qualified members is representative yet diversified enough to be an advisory board for the entire department. With each board member representing a major specialized area related to public health, it seems logical that the

existing board could give a more balanced and knowledgeable opinion than the proposed smaller board. . . .

Since the trend of general practitioners is to send patients with a unique problem to a specialist for the best care available, I believe the Public Health Department should be allowed to keep their specialist, the advisory board, intact.

BONNIE AUSTIN.

San Francisco.

A Good Thing

Editor—I'll say it is a good thing General Eisenhower was in command of the Allied Forces in Europe instead of General Gavin, or we would still be encamped outside of Paris waiting for those big bad Germans to give up and go home.

EDWARD ORTEZ.

Richmond.

An Acid Note

Editor—By writing that acid little postscript to H. L. Hunt's letter to the editor, you showed your attitude toward capitalism. Only a person against free enterprise would knock a man for "being the richest man in the world." What's wrong with there being some rich, some poor, and some in between? It's a fluid state here in America today. One can still go from the bottom to the top with initiative, hard work and some smarts. That's a part of the republic Mr. Hunt is asking us to save. . . .

ARDEN L. HASSON.

Dixon, Calif.

War—Here and There

Editor—In the report of the President's Commission on Civil Disorders the primary blame for racial disorders was put on white racism. That these problems be given the highest national priority was strongly stated. Certainly it is also extraordinarily clear that this cannot be done until the Vietnam war is ended. . . .

BARBARA ULMER.

Saratoga.

San Francisco Chronicle
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

38

Wednesday, April 3, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Now for That Wall'...

Editor — Kudos to Mayor Alioto for his determined and apparently successful efforts to regain control of the Port of San Francisco. Now, let us hope that he will be able to bring down the concrete curtain that cuts off our city from its waterfront.

CHASE WEBB.

San Francisco.

Hello Stranger

Editor — This morning at breakfast my husband said, "Hey, I like The Chronicle's new page makeup for the news section."

It's the first time he's spoken to me at breakfast in ten years.

Thank you.

JOSEPHINE MEDILL.

San Mateo.

'Reward, Not Tax'

Editor — The Marin commuter is a law-abiding citizen who causes little crime in San Francisco; he starts few fires; he does not require welfare payments; he does not impose the cost of educating his children on the San Francisco taxpayer. Instead he helps populate the growing spate of shiny new high rise office towers, vital to San Francisco's economic base; he spends his money in the city's restaurants and buys his wife presents from downtown stores.

If fairness in taxation is to mean anything anymore, he should be rewarded each year with a cash bonus from the San Francisco Mayor in gratitude for keeping his city operating, rather than being threatened with this nefarious commuter tax.

MICHAEL WORNUM,
Councilman.

Mill Valley.

Miracle workers

Editor—No one can expect candidates to be completely rational during primary season. As one who has been through a number of campaigns, I have personally experienced the fever which leads a normally sober man to expound about the miracles that will

occur upon his election. Nevertheless, there are limits.

I believe that Richard Nixon has gone beyond the bounds of good taste and judgment with his mysterious Vietnam solution. Mr. Nixon has claimed that he could "end the war and win the peace," but he refuses to discuss details until after his election to the presidency. This is not the normal oratory about more government services for less taxes; it is a cold-blooded manipulation of the hopes and fears of all those with husbands or sons in Vietnam. If Nixon has a magic solution, for God's sake let him speak so that lives may be saved. If he has not, he is playing a cruel hoax on us all.

Having been in Vietnam, I share the doubts that many have about our Asian policy. I believe we must chart a new course. For this reason I am supporting Robert F. Kennedy. He promises no miracles, but he discusses approaches that make sense to me. He is campaigning responsibly, and for this quality alone he stands above the crowd.

ALFRED H. SONG,

State Senator,
28th District,

Los Angeles County.

Sacramento.

Hysteria is the Winner

Editor — Bobby's reception in Los Angeles demonstrates that it wasn't political conservatism on the part of Californians that elected Ronald Reagan — it was hysteria.

ROGER BRADFORD.

San Francisco.

'Parents are at Fault'

Editor — I regard with equal disbelief the statement in David Perlman's story March 26 that physicians are disturbed at today's "well bred, middle class, high achieving children, turning on with pot, acid and speed."

However, in all cases it is up to the parents to set the guide lines for their children's behavior patterns. In principle, everyone prefers morality. It is the parents who make immorality seem more attractive. Children are quick to

observe small flirtations at adult dinner parties. They can hear reputations being slaughtered via their mother's telephone conversations. Lack of respect — which parents constantly deplore — is their just reward.

So it is with drugs and their abuse. When an over-martined parent needs to be bodily removed from a gathering, what then is so incredulous about his son smoking pot in the family basement with a group of friends?

In the final analysis children are blameless for the majority of transgressions. In condemning the younger generation, most adults are guilty for the examples they themselves have set. Children learn by imitation and example. It is a sad commentary that the new generation deserves so much pity.

ESTHER PLOTTEL.

Burlingame.

Money for Schools

Editor—Why doesn't Governor Reagan give us more money for our schools so that we can have more equipment, and pencils and paper?

MARY L. SWYGERT,
Age 11.

Oakland.

History

Editor—In view of the fact that it was during the Eisenhower-Dulles administration that we violated the 1954 Geneva Accord and established our puppet government in South Vietnam, it is no wonder that the General is so hawkish in his support of the undeclared war against that tiny country.

ROBERT W. TUTTLE.

Pacific Grove.

A Prize for Realism

Editor—Arthur Hoppe's column "The Calif Who Didn't Want To Go," in The Chronicle last Friday should get some kind of prize for stark realism.

Kind of hard to take, isn't it?

FRANK CRUM.

White City, Oregon.

San Francisco Chronicle

THE VOICE OF THE WEST

44

Thursday, April 4, 1968



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Air for Streetcars

Editor — The German-made articulated streetcars sound like a good idea, only if purchased, let them out for air so we can see them. Don't have them entirely underground.

And the J-Church line, as it winds around like a roller coaster at Liberty street, with a view of the skyline to greet passengers, must not be replaced by a noxious bus. Let the articulated cars go the same route, going underground at Market.

San Francisco owes much of its charm to the clanging streetcars.

THOMAS DUTTON.

San Francisco.

'Candlestick Is Fine'

Editor—I am in favor of developing the Candlestick ball park into a sports arena instead of using the area south of Market. I feel we have already developed a stadium and plenty of parking space.

It would also help to enclose the stadium entirely to keep out the wind. This would encourage people to come to Candlestick. In addition, with new freeway routes, there will be no traffic jams or parking problems, and there is ample land around the park available for future expansion.

NELLO S. ISOARDI.

San Francisco.

Another Gross Error

Editor—In his letter published March 27 Terry Thomas implored you to draw attention to what he termed a gross error. I, in turn, would like to call his attention to a gross error on his own part.

Fact—the entire area now called the West Bank of the Jordan River was never part of the country of Jordan but was occupied in 1948 by the armed forces of what was then the country called Trans-Jordan. This military occupation was in defiance of the United Nations resolution of November 29, 1947. Concerning Mr. Thomas' questions about Israel's

military action on March 21 against the Fedayeen camp, one might ask some questions of Mr. Thomas and his committee:

Is the continued refusal of the Arab states to recognize Israel's right to exist in the interest of peace?

Is the inhumane and immoral bombing of school buses, farm communities, and movie houses by self-styled suicide squads in the interest of peace?

Is the continued refusal of the Arab states to even negotiate with Israel in the interest of peace?

PAUL W. VAPNEK.

San Francisco.

Take a Walk

Editor—Please tell me if there are any walking tours of San Francisco that you have to share.

We are new residents and would appreciate your helping us to get acquainted with the city.

PATRICIA ALFORD.

Hillsborough.

We recommend Margo Patterson Doss' collection of walks, "San Francisco At Your Feet," published by Grove Press and available in most book stores, as a starter. You can also try her weekly Bay Area and San Francisco walks published in The Chronicle Sunday Punch.—Editor

Tahoe Agency

Editor — Speaking both as Administrator of the Resources Agency and as a member of the California Tahoe Regional Agency, I wish to commend you for your strong editorial "Take Nevada's Offer on Tahoe" in The Chronicle March 29.

In addition to the sound points you make, I would like to offer the following information which may be of interest to your readers:

1. If the California Legislature does not amend its Tahoe legislation to conform with Nevada's version, a whole year of exceedingly important joint action at Tahoe will be irretrievably lost.

2. Great credit should be given to Governor Laxalt and Nevada Senator Coe Swobe who succeeded in obtaining passage of the Nevada version of this legislation only after tremendous effort.

3. Informed sources in Nevada have indicated that if California does not join them at this time there will either be no additional legislation on this subject in Nevada, or in any event, it would not be as strong as the present version. We must recognize that Nevada has accepted roughly 80 per cent of the provisions of the present California legislation.

4. When the key California-Nevada conference was held in Sacramento on this important matter (a meeting that Governor Laxalt and Senator Swobe took the trouble to come to Sacramento for), Assemblyman Z'berg did not even bother to attend.

Conservation groups, representatives of the Resources Agency, Senator Teale, Assemblyman Chappie, and many other conferees attended, and a general accord was reached on a bi-state basis; general accord was reached, that is, by everyone except Assemblyman Z'berg, who chose not to attend.

5. The main office of the Sierra Club, usually unassailable in its dedication to conservation issues, in supporting Assemblyman Z'berg in his obstructionism, has apparently chosen to ignore their own members in Nevada who are severely critical of Assemblyman Z'berg's flip-flop on this issue. (Earlier in the year, he had assured Nevada legislators of his cooperation.)

6. Failure to cooperate with Nevada and loss of a year of bi-state action would seriously hamper the effectiveness of the California Tahoe Regional Planning Agency which has gotten off to a sound and effective start in spite of the fact that it has to date been operating without any funding whatsoever, not even as yet having the secretarial help necessary to reproduce minutes of its meetings.

N. B. LIVERMORE, JR.

Sacramento.

San Francisco Chronicle
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

44

☆☆☆

Friday, April 5, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Choice

Editor — May I make a statement to W. L. Felsen (Letters, March 28) who doesn't like to hear sonic booms at 0500 hours? Would he rather hear a MIG 15 or MIG 21 at 0500 hours?

THEODORE A. MORTAG,
S-Sgt. USAF (Rtd)

Novato.

Impressive

Editor — Anyone who has followed Senator Eugene McCarthy and his campaign for the presidency cannot help but be impressed. He speaks simply and at the same time eloquently, and has indeed shown himself to be a man of great insight and moral conviction. He has also proved to be a man of great courage and intellect. He stood up against our disastrous policy in Vietnam when no one else dared . . . We not only should have him in the White House, but we very desperately need him there.

KURT G. LESWING.

San Francisco.

Save Mount Olympus

Editor — You cannot begin to appreciate our surprise and delight in reading Millie Robbins' column on Mount Olympus. As both she and Herb Caen have pointed out, the view is unsurpassed and sweeps from the Farallones to Mount Diablo, encompassing ten counties. Certainly this view should be preserved for all San Franciscans. The site also merits conservation as the geographical center of our city.

However, the Mount Olympus Neighbors Association has recently learned that the undeveloped view lots on the northern slope of Mount Olympus have been sold and will be built upon in the very near future. San Franciscans should realize that to allow another cement high-rise structure is to seal off but another view for future generations.

Rather, we envision a mini-park on this site and the restoration of the monument or the creation of a

new one appropriate to the spirit of our city.

In this project we seek to assemble private and public support of all those interested in preserving the unique qualities of San Francisco.

W. URIE WALSH,
President,
HERBERT S. KAUFMAN, M.D.,
Vice President
San Francisco.

'Merge the Counties'

Editor — Mayor Alioto's suggestion that San Francisco county be merged with portions of San Mateo and Marin counties is worth serious consideration. If anything, he does not go far enough.

Present county boundaries are merely historical accidents perpetuated by politicians anxious to keep their offices. Whatever reasons there may have been for making San Francisco city into a county have long vanished; what is left is a situation where nine counties fight for the right to dump sewage into the bay. This unwieldy mess has resulted in ABAG, at best a patchwork.

Many of our present difficulties could be solved by merging adjacent counties into more rational units. San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara share a common geography and common economic interests. Likewise Alameda and Contra Costa counties, while in the north Marin, Napa, Sonoma and Solano counties would be more logically combined into one county.

Surely it would be much more realistic to merge these nine counties into three, along rational economically indicated boundaries.

ALFRED C. HEXTER.
Berkeley.

A Question

Editor — One of course expected that The Chronicle would applaud President Johnson's announcement of a unilateral de-escalation of the Vietnam war . . . But, I should like to pose this

question: How will you be able to face the families of those whose names you print in your casualty reports, when they ask if The Chronicle has supported our fighting men in their struggle to preserve its freedom of the press?

THOMAS M. EDWARDS.
San Francisco.

Next . . .

Editor — Now that millions of Americans have lost their favorite whipping boy, it will be interesting to see who will take President Johnson's place.

H. R. DOERING.

Berkeley.

Hindering Teamwork

Editor—Although I am chairman of the Marin county Board of Supervisors, I am writing to you as an individual citizen of Marin county. Please accept my compliments on your outstanding editorial of April 1 concerning the threat of Mayor Alioto's commuter tax . . .

I fully realize that Mr. Alioto is vitally concerned with the problems that he is encountering. I also fully realize that the only effective answers for some of these problems must be found in a team effort with the suburban communities that support the central city.

For the first time in many years Marin and San Francisco are joining to resolve some of our common problems such as transportation, water pollution, air pollution, bay fill, etc. The threat of discriminatory taxes, such as this commuter tax, would destroy this team effort . . .

The broad industrial and commercial tax base of San Francisco is already reaping the benefits of our residential communities while we are supporting the burdens of the expensive services such as schools for these same commuters. In no part of the United States has a so-called payroll or commuter tax been successful where there is also a State income tax . . .

E. N. KETTENHOFEN.
San Rafael.

San Francisco Chronicle
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

44

Monday, April 8, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Martin Luther King

Editor—We rightfully mourn the tragic loss of Dr. King. But we should also mourn the tragedy of his life. For certainly it is a sad commentary on our times that any man should have to speak up for what should be believed by all — the equality of mankind.

DAVE AUGUSTSON

Daly City.

• • •

Editor—For those of us not of his race, he gave his life so that we could more clearly see that honor and dignity have no color.

BARBARA MIKOLAVICH

S. San Francisco

• • •

Editor—Let us hope that his martyrdom will lead, not to vindictive revenge, but to humiliation and sober re-examination of the attitudes of all of us, to the end that we may come to toleration and understanding of our fellowmen.

MORRIS WATSON

San Francisco

Race and the CRA

Editor—The editorial April 2 ("Reagan and the CRA") would seem to imply that Governor Reagan's concern with the educational and economic opportunities of Negro and Mexican-American groups is unpopular with the California Republican Assembly. You said: "The Governor's appeal was not precisely what the CRA ultras wanted to hear."

Nothing could be further from the truth. The newly elected President of the CRA is Dr. Tirso del Junco, born and educated in Cuba, and a naturalized U.S. citizen; his wife is a Mexican-American. Two more dedicated and patriotic believers in the American way of life and the United States Constitution could not be found. They appreciate the conservative principles of the CRA, because they've lived under conditions where they have seen the contrast. They know that the principles of the CRA are not "ultra," but "responsible," and its

membership is made up of people who are interested in protecting the rights of minorities, through the U.S. Constitution.

We have CRA units made up mostly of Negro members, and yet they have no rules barring other racial groups from joining. No CRA unit in any place has any rules barring Negroes or Mexican-Americans from joining.

During this past year while I have been President, Dr. del Junco, from Cuba, has been a Vice President; Ben Peery, a Negro from Los Angeles, has been a Director; Director Robert Apodaca is a Mexican American.

Vossa Wysinger of CRA in Berkeley is a fourth generation Californian and of Negro descent and a candidate for Congress. Samuel Higgins of CRA in Berkeley is of Negro descent and a candidate for the State legislature.

Respect and justice for minority groups is nothing new to the CRA, and nothing new to Governor Reagan. The reporter who made the suggestion to you is sadly misinformed, and I feel that you have the responsibility to insist that he gets the facts.

FRANK P. ADAMS,

Immediate Past President

San Francisco

Needed—A Park

Editor—The area along the Embarcadero between Union and Chestnut streets is warm, sunny and protected from the wind from Telegraph Hill. Its zoning should be changed from industrial to recreational and residential. It should be left open for the pleasure of people. The eastern half of the city has no park and this would be an ideal spot.

KATHALEEN MOGAN

San Francisco

Busy Lady Says 'Darn'

Editor—I am a very busy woman. If the Redevelopment Agency allows Judge Fitz-Gerald Ames a free parking place near City Hall I wish to make first dibs for the use of same in the evening. Being very

busy, I find it most annoying to have to walk three or four blocks to the Opera House when I attend the Symphony — not to mention the stigma attached to parking in a public lot. Of course, if the Judge is not successful in obtaining a free parking place perhaps he can hire a chauffeur for his Rolls-Royce, in which case neither of us will have a free, convenient parking place. Darn!

MRS. WM. H. MURPHY

San Francisco

They're Still Alive

Editor — I should like to inform the Doctors McNamara and Keller and anyone else that might possess the slightest interest in community affairs, that the Diggers are indeed still alive and grooving in San Francisco.

We operate from All Saints Episcopal Church — dispensing home made bread twice a week and providing for crash-pad, employment, free store, runaway and sundry other services.

I might add that assistance of any sort will be gratefully appreciated.

BILL OSBORNE.

San Francisco.

What Does He Know?

Editor — Lewis B. Hershey asserted last week that protesters against the draft in this country are "enemies of the United States." Does this mean that the Bill of Rights has been rescinded after all and that Mr. Hershey, being in a position of privilege, knows something that the rest of us haven't yet been officially told?

GERALD A. HYNES.

Santa Cruz.

Breaking Into Print

Editor—If I had the tax free millions of an oil man, I'd not only write letters to the editor, but I'm sure once in a while one would be printed.

R. E. NEGHERBON.

Riddle, Oregon.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How to Save Trains

Editor—Your editorial "Save the Trains," April 7, reminds me that the Pacific Railway Act a century ago made the Central Pacific "a fabulous business success." Its successor, the Southern Pacific, "still owns 3.8 million acres" of the original land grant. In short, no private capital went into this railroad system.

The "searching and urgent inquiry" which you suggest should ask whether private enterprise, so richly endowed, can operate a complete railroad service at a profit. Can it maintain passenger service for commuters and others unable to use other services? The railroads must relieve the mounting pressure on our highways.

If it is beyond the ability of the Southern Pacific to serve the "public convenience and necessity" for which it received its franchise and grants, then the Government must take over. Government ownership is the logical alternative to a private enterprise which cannot or will not serve the public.

FRANK R. KENNEL.

Palo Alto.

Something Must Be Done

Editor—This letter is addressed to all citizens who have been shocked by the tragic assassination of Martin Luther King and who feel that something must be done to help the cause for which he gave his life.

Many of you have attended memorial services for Dr. King or expressed your grief privately or publicly in other ways. Such demonstrations indicate a widespread sympathy not only for a courageous man but probably—and more importantly—for his cause.

Dr. King believed in the processes of democracy and particularly in the power of the people to obtain redress for their grievances through their representatives in government. Every person who shares his beliefs can take one simple but most important step right now to prove Dr. King was right.

We plead with you to write a brief letter to your Congressman and to each of your two Senators to let them know in your own words that you want them to vote for massive and meaningful programs which will alleviate the basic conditions that perpetuate poverty and racial discrimination. Congress is presently considering appropriations for the coming fiscal year and must decide how much will be spent to solve the urban crisis. Do not fail to give your representatives the mandate to act.

MRS. RODNEY D. VINSON,
President,
League of Women Voters.
Berkeley.

San Francisco's Congressmen are: Phillip Burton, 1622 House Office Building, and William S. Mailliard, 1413 New House Office Building, Washington, D.C. The State's two Senators, Thomas Kuchel and George Murphy, have offices in the Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. The Registrar of Voters in each community can supply the names and addresses of Congressmen for its area.—Editor

Editor—A shocked nation mourns the passing of one of its great sons. His vicious murder by a depraved bigot has placed a blot of infamy on every decent citizen who cares about the kind of land in which we live. All of us are the victims of that assassin's unconscionable act.

In their great grief, Negroes might think that the loss is theirs alone. Their loss is the greatest, but it is shared. Martin Luther King labored with loving dedication for a better America, to the advantage of every citizen. A nation of righteousness, of justice and compassion, of equality and brotherhood, such a nation would be a blessing to all—so that Dr. King's striving benefited all, not just Negroes.

Prejudice and divisiveness have never been solely a Negro problem. They always have been the concern of every decent, sensitive,

alert, human being. Negroes have been the greatest victims of racial intolerance, but everybody suffered as our entire society was corroded and corrupted by its evil destructiveness.

Until now, too many persons were apathetic or wrongly motivated. Too often, white people gave more of lip service than the vigor of uncompromising indignation. Too often, Negroes sought the mistaken course of reacting (understandably enough) with retaliatory bitterness, occasionally expressed in lawless violence.

Dr. King knew that Americans must establish understanding together, that violence only breeds counter violence, that a better life cannot be found for anyone in the ashes of a ruined society. He was an apostle of nonviolence, confident in the justice of his cause to reach America's conscience and so to succeed. His murderer believed exactly the opposite.

We must now determine who was right. The challenge is up to every American, white and Negro alike. In this hour of trial, we must prove anew that there is no difference: We are Americans all, cooperating together for the common good, and by our mutual endeavors consecrating nobly the memory of Martin Luther King.

LEONARD V. FINDER.

Sacramento.

Bon Mot?

Editor—On March 29 you carried a review of the U.C. Marching Band concert and I object to the sneering tone which your reviewer used throughout his harangue. His unnecessarily sarcastic review was given the dubious authenticity of print, a credit which his cheap writing did not warrant. A great many very fine young people presented a show that, judging by applause, the audience loved.

Maybe Mr. Tircuit spent the evening composing bon mots for his poison pen review and never watched the show . . .

GERALD SPINDEL.

San Francisco.

San Francisco Chronicle
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

40

- ☆

Wednesday, April 10, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Neighborhood Cop

Editor—. . . I would like to suggest to Officer Sylvestri that what San Francisco doesn't need is police helicopters—at least not for riot control, as reported in The Chronicle April 4.

What it needs is more old-fashioned beat-walking policemen—men who may even live in the districts they patrol—men who are willing and anxious to look at citizens as human beings, not objects on the ground. . . .

VIRGINIA M. NEFF.

San Francisco.

On the Waterfront

Editor—San Franciscans have paid \$200,000 of their tax money to have John Bolles survey the waterfront and recommend how it should be developed. How can you consider selling city streets and permit this area to become one big furniture warehouse before the report has been considered by the people? This city belongs to its citizens. Let them choose between a warehouse versus open space, recreational and residential facilities.

AMOS LIEBERMAN.

San Francisco.

'No Other Choice'

Editor—It has been very painful for me to endure the avalanche of praise that is being heaped upon LBJ for his "courageous and sacrificial" gesture in stepping down from the presidency.

What no one has the guts to admit was that Johnson had no other choice. A man as sensitive to political polls as he could hardly be unaware of his disintegrating popularity among all segments of the population. This combined with a less obvious fact of his increasing inability to safely appear in public (as seen by the manner in which he must now sneak in and out of cities for his unannounced speaking engagements) made any ideas of re-election highly unrealistic.

So it seems that this man who tragically violated his 1964 cam-

paign pledge not to bomb the North or to engage American boys in an Asian war, has turned an impending disaster into a personal victory. But this surge in popularity will be short-lived; and certainly history will place the inventor of the credibility gap in his true perspective.

WYNN KAPIT.

Sausalito.

'Warm and Inspiring'

Editor—I write to you in response to the resignation of Frank Houser from the San Francisco Symphony. I feel that San Francisco deserves to be reminded of Mr. Houser's significant contribution to the San Francisco musical scene with the Symphony, the Bach-to-Mozart group, and in his private teaching.

In all these endeavors, Mr. Houser has compiled an outstanding record of devotion to his art and equally important, to his students. As one of his past pupils, I can testify to his great popularity not only as an inspiring teacher, but also as a warm and sincere friend. Mr. Houser, for me, epitomizes the intellectual musician, interested in and aware of what is going on in many different fields of inquiry, and a participant in a wide scope of activities.

MARTIN D. STONER.

Stanford.

The Gun Law

Editor—One point which I have not seen brought out in regard to the tragic end of Dr. King is that it emphasized as never before the need of protecting our citizens and in particular our eminent citizens from the attacks of any psychopathic individual, any racial fanatic, any hate-filled maniac who can earn or steal the price of a gun.

In pioneer times the need to carry a gun in self defense may have seemed evident; in the 1960s it is as anachronistic as the banditry of a Black Bart or a Joaquin Murietta.

Following the assassination of President Kennedy more than four

years ago, Congress failed to enact even the mild anti-gun law proposed by Senator Dodd. Let us hope that, in view of the latest catastrophe, sufficient pressure will be brought upon our elected representatives to induce them to prefer the rights of potential gun victims to the supposed rights of the victimizers.

STANTON A. COLENTZ.

Mill Valley.

Correction

Editor — You printed a story April 5 concerning Planning Commission approval of the proposed new Chinese Hospital which made the erroneous statement that Thomas Hsieh "is working for" Rex Whitaker Allen and Associates. This is not the case.

Thomas Hsieh, AIA, has his own independent practice and is one of San Francisco's leading architects. The Chinese Hospital project is being designed by the firms of Rex Whitaker Allen and Associates and Thomas Hsieh, AIA, Architect, Inc. working as a joint venture.

REX WHITAKER ALLEN, FAIA.

San Francisco.

Walking Tours

Editor—The Chronicle reader who inquired about walking tours in San Francisco may be interested in knowing about a course currently being offered at University of California Extension at its San Francisco Center, Market and Laguna streets. It is titled City Life: Romance and Reality X114 and combines both lectures and city walks. The course is a review and analysis of the natural history of cities from the Greek city-state to the American city and the megalopolis, and utilizes San Francisco as a natural laboratory to examine the organization of city life, the psycho-cultural aspects of the city, and the future of the city. Further information, call 861-5452.

DOROTHY SATIR,
Asst. Coordinator,
The Daytime Program,
U. C. Extension.

San Francisco.

San Francisco Chronicle
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

40

☆☆

Thursday, April 11, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An If

Editor—If all the people who have paid tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King had practiced what he preached and lived, I think he would be alive today.

R. S. OSSER.

Manteca.

Market Center Pro...

Editor—I am a Telegraph Hill dweller and I would like to express my strong support for the International Market Center to be built below the eastern cliff of Telegraph Hill.

Clearly, construction of the center should increase property values throughout the hill because this will be the most desirable place for hundreds of the center's tenants to live.

Telegraph Hill badly needs a raise in property values. At the moment it could be described as a moderate income slum, suffering from high taxes, high rents, but no real incentive to remodel and beautify the quaint, but decaying neighborhood.

Also, the portion of the waterfront which lies beneath the eastern cliff of the hill is at present an eyesore. It is an industrial slum, depressed and filthy. I believe the plans for the International Market Center will be a great esthetic improvement.

JAMES R. LOVE

San Francisco.

Editor—... The \$100 million International Market Center is the greatest attempt ever made to marshall all the industry's revolutionary technological and marketing advances into one, compact, centralized home furnishings market center. It is also an attempt to situate that mart in an area which offers the consumption in land and water attraction for which our city is world famed... Further, the vast amount of tax dollars which will accrue to the city compared to the present niggling sum are im-

portant to all of us. In addition, the financial reverberations that will be felt by the travel, hotel, restaurant, entertainment, retail and service industries are of major importance...

CHARLES A. LEHR.

San Francisco.

...and Con

Editor—The International Market Center is not a well thought out project.

According to reports it would require streets to be closed, would interject a massive wall between the waterfront and Telegraph Hill, thereby ruining one of the most beautiful meetings of land and water in the world, and present a practically faceless facade to the city and the water...

MR., MRS. C. G. WILSON JR.

San Francisco.

Editor—A furniture mart can be anywhere. It does not need to be on valuable waterfront property. This area of the waterfront should belong to the people of San Francisco and be a source of beauty and relaxation to all.

MR. & MRS. C. DIZON.

San Francisco.

What Panthers Want

Editor—This week, traffic has barely moved in a block of Oakland's 28th street. A double line of cars inches along as drivers gape at a house and a car riddled with police bullet holes.

On Tuesday it was incongruous to hear car radios blaring words of brotherhood from the Martin Luther King funeral at this scene of racist murder.

There is a mindless fear and hatred of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense on the part of public officials and fear on the part of many persons of good will who should know better.

An older black person who is willing to be obsequious can get along in Oakland, with a little luck,

and some would rather keep it that way than rock the boat. But for younger blacks and for any who take the equal rights doctrine seriously, Oakland is a very dangerous place.

• Young militants formed an organization for self defense. Two of their leaders have been shot by police and jailed, one of them the author of "Soul on Ice," Eldridge Cleaver. A third is facing court proceedings with the possibility of a heavy sentence. A fourth is dead at the hands of police.

The Panthers have an extensive program of political education and action. One of their demands is that police should live in the areas where they are assigned to duty.

The Panthers are serious about self defense. They are not so foolish as to start quixotic shootouts with the police. "We are not racists," they say repeatedly, and I as a white man have found this to be true. When told of whites buying guns to repel a fancied invasion by Panthers, they shake their heads and frown. "What for? All we want is to be left alone in our own community."

They are in the tradition of fighters for freedom and first-class citizenship in many times and places.

MORRIS WRIGHT.

Berkeley.

What Ails Him?

Editor—Granted that former Governor Pat Brown was generally recognized as being a chronic sufferer from foot-in-mouth disease, how in hell can the followers of Ronald Reagan possibly explain the ailment which prompts him to publicly suggest a voluntary withholding income tax? And to apply to primarily those who never have paid a State income tax and never will pay it so long as there is no method by which the State can catch up with a tax evader unless he is a long-time resident or long-time employee?...

DON PHILLIPS.

Mill Valley.

San Francisco Chronicle
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

34



Friday, April 12, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Assemblyman Z'berg Talks About Tahoe

Editor — Although I seriously doubt that any useful purpose is served by continued recriminations in the Lake Tahoe controversy, public confusion created by the persistent and unwarranted attacks of the Reagan administration upon me and the members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Planning and Public Works — the latest being the April 5 Letter to the Editor by Resources Administrator Livermore — clearly requires a response.

First of all, the already operative California Tahoe Regional Agency is a historic step forward in the complex art of regional resources management, and the Reagan administration knows it. Mr. Livermore and the Governor also know that the California Agency — which now possesses authority fully equal to its gigantic responsibility of regulating mushrooming growth in the two thirds of the Basin within California — would be destroyed by acceptance of the crippling Nevada amendments.

(Among the Nevada amendments are the following: 1. Changing the method of voting on non-fiscal matters from a majority of Agency members present to a so-called "double majority," or a majority of members from each state; 2. Restricting the power of the Agency to adopt ordinances to matters . . . which are general and regional in application . . ."; 3. Deleting the Agency's power to approve public works projects of the states; 4. Shifting the responsibility for planning from the Agency itself to a reconstituted "advisory planning commission" heavily dominated by local interests; 5. "Grandfathering" in both states of all business and recreational activities licensed by the states (a Nevada amendment ostensibly intended to preserve the gaming industry, to which the California Legislature has no objection); 6. Imposing an arbitrary \$150,000 ceiling on the Agency's operating budget, with no provision for increase short of new leg-

islation in each state and approval of a new compact by the Congress.)

Second, the Governor's strong support of the Nevada amendments and his continuing efforts to mislead the public into believing that their acceptance will actually do something to save Lake Tahoe is most interesting in view of the fact that at no time last year did Governor Reagan or any member of his administration lift one finger to help my bill during its perilous course through the Legislature. His heavy pressure on the Legislature this year to adopt the weak Nevada legislation and destroy our strong California agency places the administration in the curious position of advancing the interests of the Basin land speculators and developers who have opposed any meaningful action to save Lake Tahoe from the very beginning.

Third, it is profoundly regrettable that the Governor has chosen to recast the long and difficult struggle to save the Lake into a partisan contest between his administration and me. The truth is that the unprecedented achievement embodied in the 1967 legislation is the result of many years of dedicated effort by a cross-section of public spirited citizens of all political persuasions in both states — an effort which was begun long before Governors Reagan or Laxalt arrived on the scene, and which Governor Reagan supported with thunderous silence during the 1967 Legislature. Regardless of what the administration would like the public to believe, the decision to reject the Nevada amendments was in fact made by a bi-partisan majority of the members of the Assembly-Natural Resources Committee, which has been studying this problem since 1964, and which initiated the first legislative action for a regional agency in 1965. This decision was supported by every California member of the Lake Tahoe Joint Study Committee — including Chairman Richard Graves —

which originally recommended the form of the bi-state regional agency, as well as every major conservation group in California.

Fourth, the Nevada amendments — which weaken the Agency's effectiveness not only in Nevada but also in California — were adopted in spite of our repeated requests to reach a responsible compromise which would not cripple the Agency. We nevertheless maintain our readiness to accept less significant bi-state agency powers in Nevada if California is permitted to retain its already enacted stronger authority. Although it is to be hoped that Nevada eventually chooses to join with California in a meaningful bi-state effort to save Lake Tahoe, until this occurs California is clearly better advised — and the Lake will clearly be the beneficiary — to go it alone with the continued operation of its own very effective Agency, and concentrate on finding orderly solutions to the serious and immediate problems of growth in the two-thirds of the Basin in California. If in the short run Nevada chooses not to join in this effort, the failure of state and local government to responsibly manage this incomparable national treasure will lead inevitably and properly to Federal intervention.

Fifth, as a demonstration of our good faith and in the effort to narrow the issues as much as possible, I have introduced legislation incorporating the Nevada amendments that will not cripple the effectiveness of the Agency, and proposing compromises on most of those that would.

As I have done repeatedly, I once again urge Nevada to review this legislation and agree to discuss the points of difference in a proper forum with the objective of reaching a responsible compromise acceptable to both states.

EDWIN L. Z'BERG,
Chairman,
Assembly Committee on
Natural Resources
Sacramento.

San Francisco Chronicle
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

38

Monday, April 15, 1968