

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Some Whys

Editor—Why is it you never see a Negro on the social page, writing a column for The Chronicle, playing baseball with Charlie Brown, advertising clothes for Magnin's?

Why is it you never see a Negro newscaster on most TV stations, hosting his own program, advertising Gillette razor blades, or whatever?

Why is it you never see a Negro in most magazines, or children's books, acting as airline stewardesses, or managing supermarkets?

Why is that?

BARBARA J. BRIDGE.

Woodside.

Where It's At

Editor — Concerning the memorial contributions, one cannot quarrel with the intent of the predominantly white Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Inter-Religious Fund's advertisement in The Chronicle April 11.

But I would like to call attention to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, at 332 Auburn ave. N.E., Atlanta, Georgia. It is Dr. King's organization. Operationally, this is where it's at.

ALAN AGGSON.

Fairfax

Save the Mint

Editor—More beauty and historic treasures have been needlessly sacrificed in the name of progress than most thinking people want to admit. Our priceless Old Mint building is a classic example.

In a city which cherishes every square inch of cultural space, why couldn't this great old building become a historical museum, or an art gallery? Not a glorified neighborhood center with ping pong tables, dirty walls, but a truly glorious place in tune with the cultural spirit of San Francisco.

When the Federal Government puts it on the block in June, who

will stand up to save this 94-year-old edifice? If our City Planning Commission doesn't move swiftly and firmly with an official declaration, there may be no one to stand up. And that would be a tragedy, since the General Services Administration has offered the building to the city for nothing.

Congressman Phillip Burton has introduced a bill to have the Department of Interior acquire the building as a National Historic Monument . . . and I hope he will testify before the Interior Department committee meeting here April 19 . . .

I pledge to support with a cash contribution any responsible citizens committee that will undertake to save the building.

ERNEST COX.

San Francisco.

A Conductor's Life

Editor—As a cable car conductor myself, I resent Mayor Alioto "patching it up with Lynda Bird" by naming her an honorary cable car conductor . . .

When she pushes a six-ton cable car, loaded to three times its capacity off the turntable, gets knocked to the ground by swarming tourists, collects the fares, applies the brakes, answers the never-ending questions, and entertains the tourists (all at the same time), then she deserves to be an honorary San Francisco cable car conductor.

Mayor Alioto is a strong supporter of President Johnson, and I think he has used this minor incident to play politics in the hope of being high on the Johnson team.

Let's keep cable cars out of politics, and ice cream cones out of cable cars.

BRUCE KLAHR,
(Cap 3054)

San Francisco.

Comfort by Train

Editor—It was necessary for me to spend some time in one of your fine hospitals and in order to get there with the least amount of

strain, I rode the train, the Santa Fe Chief from Fresno and on the return I used the San Joaquin Daylight, via Southern Pacific.

So it was with some amazement that I read in The Chronicle that your Chamber of Commerce testified that it was good business to let the Zephyr and the City of San Francisco go down the drain because of the lack of patronage. I belong to the Chamber of Commerce here, and if our boys would go that route at a public hearing, I would no longer be a paying member. We fight against closing a good depot, let alone the removal of a good passenger train around here, and I am concerned at the apathy of officials at the demise of a famous train, especially in a city as renowned as yours.

I feel strongly that the public should support trains and officials should lend a hand to troubled roads in order to increase passenger service. As our nation grows, and people live longer, they are less able to cope with freeways and the confusion of travel by auto, bus and plane. Also, for an ill person, there is no better way to travel, than by train . . .

DUTCH GLANZER.

Dinuba.

Out of the Past

Editor — It is very disheartening to see such a fierce and rampant racially bigoted feeling within the Chinese community. Here we are trying so hard with the ultimate sacrifice of lives and the shedding of blood to build a better country to live, where human dignity and lives are to be respected and honored irregardless of race, color or creed. How can we as Chinese-Americans afford to promote segregation through closed housing policies or stifle quality-equality education by such flag waving antics of anti-busing? Are we so myopic of mind as to forget that not too many years ago, we too were on the receiving end of such inhuman treatment?

P. L. FONG.

San Francisco

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Testing . . .

Editor—Allow me a comment on the decision on the refusal of Clinic for the use of the Palace of Fine Arts for a dance concert as reported in The Chronicle last Friday. Having heard two of the three bands' thunderous music, in a building of similar construction I say they should have permitted the concert. It would have been a good test to see if the plaster would stay on the walls. It would have been a good test to see if the reconstruction job was worth all the money Mr. Johnson spent.

ROBERT H. CHEVALIER.

Fairfax.

U. C. Enrollment

Editor — Your headline "Mulford Rips U.S. Student Program" April 4, was completely off base as far as my position on the subject is concerned.

In testimony before the subcommittee of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, on which I serve, which is examining the University's budget for 1968-69, it was revealed that 2300 qualified boys and girls from California were being denied admittance to the Berkeley campus. At that time, I announced that I thought the whole "enrollment picture" at U.C. should be examined. I have not changed my mind. After all, the parents of these students pay the taxes that help support the University.

This is the first time in the University's history that qualified students have been turned away from the Berkeley campus. I have received complaints from constituents who are asking me why this is happening. I have a duty to those constituents to obtain the facts. I have specifically requested the University to provide me with information pertaining to (a) the number of foreign students attending Berkeley; (b) the number of out-of-state students attending Berkeley, and (c) the number of students participating in the Office of Economic Opportunity program.

I want to know if it is possible to

reduce the number of students in these categories by diverting them to other U.C. campuses, thus allowing more qualified California students the opportunity to attend Berkeley. This is the issue.

The San Francisco Examiner on April 10 editorialized "If the minority program threatens to exclude grade-qualified students, then the University should consider reducing its quotas for out-of-state undergraduates."

This is my position. I believe priority should be given to qualified California students if it develops that out-of-state students are in fact preventing the attendance at Berkeley of qualified California students.

DON MULFORD.

Assemblyman, 16th District
Oakland.

Query

Editor — Purdy Faller asked about his rights to which Dick Tracy replied, "I'll give you rights or lefts, as you wish." Then Purdy asked, "How long do I have to put up with Dick Tracy?"

Good question.

JOHN DINWIDDIE.

Berkeley.

'Don't Fill It'

Editor—The incredible destruction of San Francisco Bay through uncontrolled filling may begin again, we are told, as soon as the permit power of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission ends next January — unless that power is extended through the months needed for enactment of legislation to govern the long-term, regional planning for the bay.

The Miller-Knox bill (to extend the power of the BCDC for nine months) is in trouble in Sacramento because of powerful lobbying by economic interests, who would reap untold profits from massive land fills they have planned.

The bay has shrunk from 700 to 400 square miles in the last 100 years. Eventually it will be only

one-third its present size if it is filled in all the shallow areas.

Do the people know that the San Francisco area is a natural smog basin, like Los Angeles, but that the winds and tides of the bay cleanse the atmosphere daily, curtailing the smog problem here? That as the bay is filled further winds and tides will decrease proportionately?

The bay cannot be put elsewhere, but industry can be, airports can be, colleges can be, apartments can be . . . Filling the bay is irreversible. Ultimately, what is accomplished except the destruction of the very things that make our area great for commerce and for living?

Let our citizens speak out. This affects every one of us, and our children after us, for long term recreation, health, scenic beauty, and economics.

I suggest your readers call or wire their representatives in Sacramento, especially Senator Richard Dolwig of San Mateo county, chairman of the Senate Governmental Efficiency Committee.

MARION M. WOLK.

El Cerrito.

'Blah'

Editor—I have always had a gross dislike for The Chronicle as a newspaper. However, it wasn't until I read Charles McCabes' column on barbers March 29 that I knew why.

Will you kindly tell me what right Mr. McCabe had to attack a group of men who are trying to make an honest living? Did it ever occur to Mr. McCabe that if he wasn't such a blockhead his hair wouldn't be so hard to cut? . . .

I have never believed in protest marches, picket lines or sit-ins, but I am about to organize one against the Chronicle for having printed such unnewsworthy trash.

I believe in freedom of the press but only up to a point, and when it becomes detrimental to a man's profession then I feel it is time to halt the presses . . .

MRS. DON CASSADY.

Merced.



"Your pitiful whining—and the fact that this is an election year—have touched my-uh-heart!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Planning for the Waterfront

Editor— In proceedings before the San Francisco Planning Commission with respect to opposition to the application to close and take over parts of Lombard and Montgomery streets by North Waterfront Associates, I appeared representing P.O.W. (a group of San Francisco citizens calling themselves the Protect Our Waterfront Committee).

The city will have spent approximately \$200,000 for a report by John Bolles & Associates on maximum utilization of the very area involved in the application. A third draft of the plan with two alternatives has been presented. That draft states that it should be analyzed, studied and commented on by a Citizens Advisory Committee established by the Planning Commission, and states that the final plan will be presented this June. In the third draft, the report suggests two alternative methods of development with equal emphasis. One of these alternatives would rule out the proposed development, and consequent deeding of city streets to North Waterfront Associates, and require a no vote by the Planning Commission if adopted.

The third draft of the Bolles report also states that the economics of various kinds of development of the area in question will be analyzed by Arthur D. Little, Inc. prior to completion of the Bolles report. This is not a "bird watcher" issue, but an analysis of dollars and cents results for the city by types of development.

The Planning Commission had established the Citizens Advisory Committee to work with the planning staff and the John Bolles office, and it is unquestioned by anybody that it did work with them, and that it made many contributions of value. It should have been entitled to review the new plan of North Waterfront Associ-

ates (as it had reviewed the highly objectionable and unacceptable first plan) for at least two valid reasons: 1) As a matter of fairness to the group which, at the invitation of the Commission had worked in the interest of the city; and 2) the Planning Commission should have taken advantage of this reservoir of talent prior to deciding the application.

All of the above arguments, directed to postponement of action by the Planning Commission until after review and comment by the Citizens group, completion of the Bolles report, together with Arthur D. Little economic analysis, were made by me as forcefully as I could before the Commission; the substance of them was included in a prepared statement distributed to the press before the commencement of the hearing. I pointed out that we were talking about a delay of only two months, and that the Commission was essentially wasting a large amount of the taxpayers' money if they acted before that time.

The hearing, as a meaningful presentation of views to aid the Planning Commission in deciding the application, was, of course a farce. At the conclusion of testimony and argument, the Planning Director explained why the application should be granted, and surprisingly enough found that he just happened to have a four-page resolution on the subject, which was then unanimously adopted. I expect that this is standard operating procedure, and will guide myself accordingly in the future. However, there is, in my opinion, no conceivable excuse for the only morning newspaper in San Francisco to fail to report essentially valid arguments by opponents of an application.

ROGER KENT.

San Francisco.

'Cornerstone of Liberty'

Editor—Next week parents, public school administrators, teachers and children will be observing California's 49th annual Public Schools Week.

This year's slogan is: "The Public School — Cornerstone of Liberty," which certainly exemplifies the necessity of strengthening the public interest in our free public schooling system.

During these times, the public schools are doing a most essential job of preparing our children for the technological demands to be made of them.

A strong public interest and concern is essential all year round, but particularly necessary during this observance week, when the teachers and students have prepared programs and exhibits.

DONALD L. BATTEN,
Chairman, Grand Lodge Comm.
On Public Information.
Free and Accepted Masons.
San Francisco.

Correction

Editor—Your news story of April 5 which stated that the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction had agreed to delay the adoption of new reading books until the Legislature had time to act on various textbooks was incorrect.

No such agreement has been concluded or announced. As President of the State Board of Education, I would appreciate your correction of this error.

HOWARD DAY.
Sacramento.

Observation

Editor—Wynn Kapit's observation on LBJ (Letters, April 11) "courageous, heroic and sacrificial" gesture was one of the very few that had the mark of sanity.

JAMES WINSTON.
Sacramento.

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Thursday, April 18, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tax Talk

Editor—To blame the increase in taxes on Governor Reagan makes as much sense as blaming the Vietnam war on Gene McCarthy.

You know, and most of us voters know, that the State budget under Governor Brown increased 700 per cent. You also know, and most of us voters know, Mr. Brown departed from Sacramento leaving a State deficit of nearly \$450,000,000.

You also know, and most of us voters know, that the percentage increase in the budget this year is the smallest that it has been in the last ten years . . .

MRS. E. H. CLAGETT.

Santa Rosa.



Editor—Like everyone else, we've just sent our tax check to Sacramento. And because we are productive members of an affluent society, the check was large.

But this year we cannot help but think of that check in terms of what it could buy in, for instance, Napa State Hospital. It could provide a month's salary for someone to help care for a ward of sick and forgotten human beings.

It could supply eyeglasses for ghetto children whose families are on relief. Those children might then be able to keep up in school and go on to join the American economic mainstream. That check could enable a ghetto child to attend a state college for an entire semester, if he spent it carefully.

ROBERT & SUSAN CARR.

Tiburon.

Ominous Warning

Editor—After reading of the efforts of many people to have the use of marijuana legalized, I feel it to be my duty, as at least one, to protest any legislation in that direction.

Marijuana is a hypnotic which

produces exaltation and intoxication. It completely releases the normal inhibitions and has been used to corrupt the young and innocent as well as adults who would be otherwise incorruptible. It is identical with cannabis, which is known in the Middle East as hashish and was used to inspire men to commit murder and other violent crimes. Excessive or habitual use produces poisoning, known as cannabisism.

It surprises me that supposedly responsible people would advocate the use of this. . . I am not talking through my hat. I have 30 years U. S. Naval service behind me and have seen more of the world than most Americans. I have seen the results of using marijuana.

RICHARD E. SWEET.

San Francisco.

'Save the Significant'

Editor—As a permanent San Franciscan, I oppose the construction of a furniture mart on the northern waterfront beneath Telegraph Hill.

I do not live on Telegraph Hill but I would be greatly dismayed to see the now-standing, historic, Seawall warehouse, along with other irreplaceable buildings, razed, only to build a commercial structure with no appreciable significance.

ROZE COLLET.

San Francisco.

What Criminals Believe

Editor—Regarding your writer McCabe's column on crime, contrary to general belief, what is wrong with criminals is not so much lack of honesty as lack of loyalty. The criminal's area of loyalty is too narrow and restricted.

In a place like Santa Rita, for instance, almost all inmates sincerely feel that honesty is the best policy. They despise an inmate who pilfers from them; they are

shocked when a fellow inmate connives against them.

The code of morality among criminals is high and rigid. They pride themselves — among themselves — that their word is their bond; and they are harder on those who transgress their moral code than society is on its criminals.

What is wrong with their thinking? Not a lack of honesty, but a too narrow application of it. The world, to them, is divided into cons and squares. It is a capital crime to betray another inmate, but perfectly acceptable to perpetrate any misdeed on a square.

Somewhere in their early training they erected this wall between society and themselves; just as a nation, in fact, has one set of morality for its own citizens and quite another set in its foreign relations.

War, after all, is made possible because our loyalties do not extend to human society as a whole.

So long as we look upon the basic trouble of the criminal as being one of "dishonesty" or "immorality," we shall not be able to make contact with him, to treat him or to rehabilitate him.

Only when we understand that the inmates behind bars comprise just as many different sorts of persons as those walking around the streets, will we begin to view the task of criminology in its proper perspective. And its first function is to break down the emotional wall separating the criminal from his fellow man.

But if we persist in regarding criminals as a peculiar species who have little in common with "respectable citizens" we are merely confirming their resentment of the free society. It is the job of the free individuals to chop away at their side of the wall as well.

C. RUSSELL TALIAFERRO,
Editor, The Santa Ritan.

Pleasanton.

The Santa Ritan is the official publication of the Santa Rita Rehabilitation Center in Alameda county.
—Editor

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Friday, April 19, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Box Around the Hill

Editor — A vulgar box around Telegraph Hill is proposed in the Northern Waterfront project. It will be five blocks long and three blocks wide. Much of it will be eight stories high. It will be used as a furniture wholesale market. This "megastructure," as architects call it, will be of concrete slab construction.

The architects are called "sensitive" and "imaginative" — words that glibly roll off the tongues of politicians and are used as handy adjectives by journalists. Nobody really looks at the project.

A magazine published in San Francisco lauds the project for historic preservation at the same time that, in order to build the box, Seawall Warehouse must be destroyed, the most significant building surviving from the Gold Rush.

This inversion of truth, this nightmarish thicket of words to conceal nightmare landscapes fits our alienated times.

The truth is that the building is brutal. The truth is that the architecture is tacky-tacky, as ugly as the Jack Tar. The truth is that our own Gibraltar — Telegraph Hill — will be concealed from San Franciscans forever. The great cliffs, the grassy slopes, the wild flowers in spring, the meandering steps rising at Greenwich and Filbert will be gobbled up in a building so big that automobiles will be driving through tunnels where the streets used to be.

This building is not for people, it is for chairs.

If San Francisco uses this precious site, sunny, bay-bound, beautiful for a windowless "megastructure", it will be the bad planning joke of the nation. The urban blight of the great slabs is dehumanizing San Francisco and we can't afford to be dehumanized.

We are the most human city in the country. Great corporations have no trouble settling their peo-

ple here because San Francisco is a human and beautiful and varied city. Two hundred million dollars are left behind here every year by tourists for the same reason. San Francisco has a reputation as one of the few pit stops in the rat race. That is our real wealth.

In the long view, it is not just a matter of environment, it is a matter of dollars and cents. We don't have enough land — never will have on a peninsula — to make mistakes. Ghirardelli Square, the most acclaimed use of a square block in the Western United States, shows us the way. San Francisco is proud of it, millions happily use it. There are similar buildings, redolent with history, that could be joined in another great complex under Telegraph Hill.

Mrs. Morse Erskine has suggested that the area under Telegraph Hill be made into a Tivoli Garden, an asset for everybody. Or why not a kind of permanent mini-sized exposition of the city's past and present glories?

The question that San Francisco should ask is: "Is this the best use for one of the most valuable parts of our city? . . . Some of us who love San Francisco are joining together to oppose this project. You can join us by phoning 392-0675 or 566-9705 or by writing the Protect Our Waterfront committee at 1255 Montgomery street.

KARL KORTUM.

San Francisco.

Indignant

Editor — Should a permit for the operation of an elephant train at Fisherman's Wharf be granted, we must then, in all honesty, change the Wharf's name to Coney Island West, add ferris wheels, parachute jumps, other similar attractions and hot dog stands, whose hot dogs, in all probability, will taste as horrible as those now

served at Golden Gate Park. I concur with Leonard Martin's belief that elephant trains belong at the Zoo. Mr. Martin's London buses are unique, sophisticated, attractive and uphold the image of the city. Elephant trains! INDEED!

BYRON DAVENPORT.

San Francisco.

First Things First

Editor — The proposal to destroy relatively new Candlestick Park and build a new football-baseball stadium in the congested South of Market area is so ridiculous that it is almost beyond belief that it could be seriously put forth. To attempt to justify this on the basis of clearing a site for new low-cost housing and stimulating downtown business is specious hogwash.

Admitted that Candlestick is a poor design in the wrong place. It was rammed through as an expedient, like the Embarcadero Freeway, and now the city is stuck with it. And it deserves to be stuck with it.

We have a baseball stadium, but the Negro population does not have decent housing. When will the white community learn that it cannot make such flagrantly wasteful mistakes in the midst of its citizens' poverty? What is needed is decent housing first, not more circuses.

THEODORE OSMUNDSON.

San Francisco.

Hat's Off . . .

Editor—My hat's off to Royce Brier for his April 10 column, "A Fantasy for December, 1963." It's a sad piece of writing, all about water now under the bridge, but nevertheless a thoughtful one, brilliant in pointing out the havoc wrought by leaders who in their abysmal ignorance and slavery to tradition can only think of war as the final catharsis and solution for everything.

HARRY A. HOBBS.

Brentwood.

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Monday, April 22, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Summer School

Editor — I cannot help but think of this coming summer and of what might possibly be in store for us.

I believe that our almost three months vacation is much too long. How can most families keep their children occupied and out of mischief for that length of time?

I think we should have summer schools — schools for dropouts so they could be coached and possibly catch up to their classes in the fall. We could also have classes for sewing, cooking, mechanical training, etc. Maybe even a small fee could be charged.

I am sure there are many retired people who would be happy to volunteer for these programs. They certainly would not be as expensive as having too many young people around with too much time on their hands.

E. HILLS.

San Francisco

Haiku

Editor—Below is a copy of the Haiku my 11-year-old daughter, Jessica, presented to me on the Easter Card she made for me. I felt that it was rather tremendous.

MRS. ROBERT C. NEWMAN.
San Francisco.

Listen to the lamb;
His crying is not answered—
Orphaned black lamb.

Bay Fill

Editor—There is a rising objection to the filling in of any part of the San Francisco Bay.

Many years ago the United States engineers were very watchful of what is called the tidal prism. The tidal prism is that area that is covered with water only between low tide and high tide, and it is the tidal prism that furnished the flow of tide water that scours the Golden Gate and the channel portion of the bay.

No doubt there is excuse or

reason for certain partial fillings and it would therefore seem as though there might be legislation providing that for every area filled in there be an equivalent area dug away or dredged to provide a scouring flow equal to that existing at present. The major part of the tidal prism is shallow but expansive and, therefore, were an area to be filled, a channel could be cut adjacent to it with its bottom at the same level as the low tide.

Plainly, such a channel holding an amount of water equivalent to the filled in acreage would not have to be very large, because it will admit tide water to the full depth of the tidal rise.

In short, there would be a block of water of the full depth of the tidal rise equal to the thin sheet of the tidal prism.

JOSEPH S. THOMPSON.
San Francisco.

The Railroad Builders

Editor — The Chronicle's April 7 editorial misled reader Frank R. Kennell of Palo Alto into a serious error of history when he claims, in his April 10 letter, that "no private capital went into" construction of Southern Pacific and its predecessor, the Central Pacific Railroad.

The historical fact is that Leland Stanford, Charles Crocker, Mark Hopkins and Collis Huntington laid their personal fortunes on the line and went deeply into debt when they began building the first transcontinental railroad eastward from Sacramento.

Building the railroad was a Civil War measure, approved three months after Bull Run, to keep California in the Union.

Abraham Lincoln said: "The national government has its hands full carrying on the war. Private enterprise must build the Pacific railroad and all the government can do is aid; even admitting its construction is a political as well as a military necessity."

The government also wanted the transcontinental railroad to

open the American West for development — and the railroad certainly accomplished that.

Land grants were made to the railroad along some routes in unsettled and empty areas, in a checkerboard pattern to insure that nearby government lands would benefit by the coming of the railroad. But The Chronicle and Mr. Kennell ignore the point that the government was more than repaid (by "most handsome terms"). In return for the land, the Federal government moved its freight, military goods, personnel and mail at half-rates for 80 years — clear through two World Wars — until Congress decided the railroads had paid back the land values 9.6 times over, and repealed the half-rate requirement. (Most of the better land, incidentally, was quickly sold by the railroad, on time-plan arrangements for as little as \$1 an acre, to farmers and other emigrants who came west on the trains after the Golden Spike was driven in 1869.)

"Cash grants" which Lincoln made to the struggling Central Pacific constituted a first mortgage on the railroad; they were all repaid, with 6 percent interest (for a total of about \$58 million) by 1909.

No subsidy was ever a better deal for the government. Does anyone seriously expect the taxpayers will get back, with interest, money presently going into highways, airports, deep water channels, or rapid transit?

The issue of "public convenience and necessity" for long-distance passenger trains today simply doesn't have anything to do with the railroad as it was 100 years ago. The only real test of public necessity is whether people use something, not just a notion that they might use it sometime, maybe. Federal authorities assign air line routes to communities, and take them away, by applying a simple test: "Use it or lose it."

J. G. SHEA,

General Public Relations Mgr.,
Southern Pacific Company
San Francisco.

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Tuesday, April 23, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time To Be Decent

Editor — The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved this week as National Decency Week, and Mayor Alioto balked. Why? Isn't one week a start at least, or are there those who would object to even this gesture toward morality . . .

AL & MARIE JACKSON.
San Francisco.

A Night at USF

Editor — At USF last Friday night the hate children, in their usual malevolent fashion, were bent on destroying Senator Kennedy's right to speak . . .

RFK must have struck a nerve when he suggested that they get out and do constructive work with the underprivileged they claim to champion . . .

Mr. Kennedy handled the invective with aplomb, rationality, and at times, contempt. Far from hurting the candidate, the noisy tantrums helped him . . .

CONSUELO MITCHELL.
San Anselmo.

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Editor — It was painful to witness the disruption of Senator Kennedy's presentation . . . The irony of it is that the interruptions were spearheaded by members of the Peace and Freedom party. Even if the party disclaims organization of the incidents, I think the effort was considerable and well organized. There is a big difference between heckling after a speech and heckling which makes it impossible to deliver the speech.

One may also ask how many people in the United States think the Senator is a "fascist pig." One may also easily imagine what an outcry would have been made had it been the Peace and Freedom party whose speaker was interrupted . . .

LEON KOGAN.
San Francisco.

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Editor — The worst thing about Bobby is that he brings out the

Bobby in us all. The most important thing about McCarthy is that he brings forth the things we'd almost forgotten we had in us — things like respect for our traditions, confidence in man's intelligence and basic decency. The difference between the two men is nowhere more dramatically evident than the difference in the reception they each received this month on local campuses.

GENE WALLACE.
San Francisco.

Extinguishers

Editor — With customary lack of concern for logic and truth, columnist Drew Pearson deploras the position of those who believe in protecting themselves and their property by having a usable fire-arm. Why? ? ?

How does the status of the double barrel 12 or Colt .45, resting serenely in the closet or bedroom drawer, differ from the ready fire-extinguisher, the first-aid kit, the health and fire insurance policies, or any other ounce of prevention measures? Surely we are not hoping for fires, injuries, etc. any more than we are for rioters, looters, or any other violent visitor!!!

THOMAS D. HIGGINBOTHAM.
Rio Linda.

A Case of Outrage

Editor — The Governor's thinking is indeed fuzzy in his opposition to the proposed abortion bill by State Senator Anthony Beilenson. "As I said last year and I say now, I don't know who is prepared to play God and determine what state of disability is justification for taking someone's life," he said, as quoted in Jackson Doyle's article April 17.

Last year Governor Reagan signed Senator Beilenson's bill allowing therapeutic abortions in cases of rape, incest and those where continued pregnancy might be a serious threat to the mother's mental health. If he felt so strongly about this "God" role then, why didn't he vote that? I

tend to think the Governor is willing "to play God" and "take someone's life" in rape and incest simply because of his moral outrage as to how the child was conceived. And theoretically, it would be the life of a healthy baby. On the dangers to a mother's mental health, the Governor resolutely decided that possible "state of disability" by signing last year's measure.

Since the Governor is botching the role of God, maybe he'd better get out of the business and allow mothers to make their own decisions.

SUSAN CARTER.
San Francisco.

The Good Families

Editor — His Honor apparently fails to recognize that there are still some decent families that have not been driven from the city who do not wish to subject their children to the filthy conditions created by the hippies in Golden Gate Park.

M. T. NOVITSKI.
San Francisco.

'It's Beautiful'

Editor — I applaud the design of the International Market Center both for its advanced concept of city planning and its architectural design. This kind of block development of urban land is a prelude to the intelligently planned city of the future where integrated planning of certain areas will become the rule rather than the exception.

The design is beautiful. It suits the contours of the land at the base of Telegraph Hill, and the landscaped roofs should make the inhabitants of the Filbert steps area overjoyed when they compare it with the cement and tarpaper landscape they now overlook. Also, it will create a whole new public recreation spot, giving more people a better view of the San Francisco Bay than possible now, and a grassy, tree-shaded environment in which to enjoy it.

SALLY HELLYER.
San Francisco.

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Wednesday, April 24, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How to Improve Schools

Editor—Jack D. Rees, executive secretary of the California Teachers Association, deplors the low quality of California education and wants to improve it by lowering the pupil-teacher ratio—a laudable aim. To achieve it, he suggests more money for education. There's a quicker and less expensive way: fire administrators, hire teachers.

GEO C. McNUTT.

Oakland.

'Life Is Cheap'

Editor — Attorney General Ramsey Clark's advocacy of the rule that police should use deadly force only in self defense or in the protection of the lives of others is an important step in dispelling an almost universal impression that citizens of the United States have a low regard for human life.

In the 25 years I lived abroad I encountered this impression in Latin America, Asia and North Africa. It has been built up through our movies, but more effectively by such statements as that of Mayor Daley of Chicago and the sentiment reflected in such pictures as the "In America" family group you published April 18. During the past few years the Vietnam war has contributed to the impression also.

A few years ago I recall that some Americans claimed that "life was cheap" in certain other countries. I am afraid that current evidence would indicate that Americans consider lives of fellow Americans as even cheaper.

HENRY W. SPIELMAN.

San Francisco.

A There There?

Editor — Many long-time Giant fans live south of the city. For what it is worth, we happen to like Candlestick Park for its accessibility, sunshine, and abundance of fresh air. Your new mayor and his committee of ball park wreckers

disguised as financial wizards are mistaken if they expect us to forsake baseball in the traditional great outdoors.

Do they really believe we will choose to drive miles farther through heavy traffic and spend hours cooped up inside an airtight dome just for the privilege of watching a couple of possible non-contenders playing on plastic grass?

No thanks, San Francisco. If you think Candlestick is a loser, wait until you see how empty Alioto's dome is after the novelty wears off.

Oakland, here we come!

S. C. MARTINELLI.

Watsonville.

Appointing Judges

Editor—I read Judge Evans' letter to the editor April 2. Like the judge, I favor the nominating commission approach to the appointment of judges, but I do not share his fears that the governor's appointees on the commissions could control the selection of judges under the proposed California Merit Plan. Judge Evans says that the three members named by the governor could block any nominations and thus control the nominating commission.

A careful reading of the bill discloses that the Merit Plan provides effective curbs on any governor who might seek to control the commissions.

The commissions are independent. They are protected in their independence by the following factors:

Under the Merit Plan, the terms of the governor's appointees to a commission would be staggered; their terms would overlap. Thus, with this rotation, no governor could change all members of the commissions at one time. He could not remove a commissioner who displeased him, since a commissioner would serve for four full years.

Furthermore, when a new gov-

ernor took office, he could not appoint new commissioners until the terms of incumbent commissioners had expired. It should also be borne in mind that no governor could tempt any commissioner with public office or employment since commissioners are ineligible to hold any such offices during the full period of their terms and for one year afterwards. This also means that no commissioner could resign to accept an appointment from the governor. Finally, the performance of the commissioners is public. Any abuses would be readily checked by the press and the Legislature.

Under any circumstances, the Merit Plan is infinitely better than a governor's present unrestricted power to appoint judges. Three commissioners on each commission are not appointed by a governor. If it is possible for the three appointed by the governor to block a nomination, as Judge Evans suggests, then it is also possible for the three not appointed by him to block the governor's candidate. The Merit Plan has built-in checks and balances, which would make it difficult for any faction on a commission to take control, whether for the governor or any one of the other appointing authorities. In any event, the commissioners are not nominating for each judgeship, just one candidate, where they might become deadlocked, but three or more. In these circumstances, it would be a rare case where the commissioners could not reach agreement on the nominees to be submitted to the governor.

The Merit Plan is a nonpartisan proposal. The Governor has endorsed it, as have the Chief Justice of California, the Judicial Council, the State Bar and many civic organizations and bar associations.

Like Judge Evans, I believe a plan for the selection of judges which removes political considerations, and particularly the influence of a governor himself, is desirable. The Merit Plan now before the Legislature would accomplish this objective.

DUNCAN ONEAL,
Attorney at Law.

San Jose.

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Thursday, April 25, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Feeding the Needy

Editor — Now I know that Your Question Man, O'Hara, is read attentively.

He asked Union Square sojourners: "How do you live without money?" One replied, "I eat at St. Anthony Dining Room." The one who spoke those words is a hippie. Now some hitherto charitable friends have turned on me with words like: "So the hippies have moved in! You'll get no more contributions from me. I work too hard for my dollars to be feeding the likes of them."

It's no secret that our free meals go to the needy of any race, color or origin. Our quests include saints and sinners. We are trying to follow the example of the One who performed the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Nowhere is it recorded that He commanded His disciples to refrain from giving any of the food to Pharisees, Samaritans, thieves, gentiles, publicans or the unclean. He simply fed the hungry. We try to do likewise.

FATHER ALFRED BOEDDEKER,
OFM.,
Executive Director
San Francisco.

Helicop?

Editor — The ghetto dwellers must have been cheered by the news that the city plans to borrow Army helicopters for "police work." They have claimed that the white Establishment hierarchy aggressively seeks to oppress them. The addition of two helicopters to the city armory seems to reinforce that claim. Has there been found a suitable site for the prison camps?

DAVID S. OGDEN,
Hayward.

Who Represents Me?

Editor—As a resident of the Lake Tahoe area since 1961, I have followed with interest the self-sacrificing efforts of the legislatures of both California and Nevada in my behalf. Readily admitting that I am far from being perfect, it is reassuring to know

that big brother is protecting me from my own crass self.

However, there is one small detail that bothers me. I was raised to believe that this country was governed by representative government. Now, if anyone can show me where the residents of this area have any voice or control in this Bi-state Tahoe Regional Agency as presently formed, it will be a startling revelation. The only privilege that we will enjoy will be to pay the tab on whatever wild hair schemes this appointive agency comes up with.

THEODORE W. KOLBE,
Zephyr Cove.

More Indignation

Editor — Byron Davenport's letter of April 22 objecting to elephant trains at Fisherman's Wharf was mistakenly dignified by your esteemed publication with the headline: Indignation. To buttress his argument, writer Davenport alluded to the Coney Island atmosphere the trains would encourage and mentioned, particularly, the hot dog stands that would mushroom on the wharf, "whose hot dogs, in all probability, will taste as horrible as those now served at Golden Gate Park."

Hooray for Mr. Davenport! True, the Golden Gate Park hot dogs are rare, indeed. But is not Mr. Davenport's indignation over the prospective elephant trains misplaced? Should not Mr. Davenport be more concerned with alleviating the miserable condition of the Sunday hot dog munchers at Golden Gate Park?

T. G. REPARD,
Tiburon.

Sex Education

Editor—We would like to make our position known in regard to the sex education program being shown to selected San Mateo County schools.

The choice of such an innocuous title as "Time of Your Life" is patently misleading and should have been more honestly labeled "Comprehensive Physiology and

Sexuality, Male and Female." The importance of children learning the correct terminology seems negated by adult reluctance to label the subject precisely.

How is it that in general subjects such as reading, math, etc., children are moved along at different levels predicated by readiness and maturity, but in sex education they are pushed on en masse?

We have no quarrel with the material itself, but the presentation of it to young mixed (boy and girl) classes week after week we find most disturbing.

This is a pilot program and our children are part of the experiment. If just one child is not ready for this material and is disturbed in any fashion, this program is a serious blunder and the damage irreparable.

MR. & MRS. L. B. WILLIAMS,
Millbrae.

Fifth and sixth graders are involved in the program.—Editor.

Apocalypse?

Editor—Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Cong don't need any friends when they have enemies like William McChesney Martin. He foresees collapse of the U. S. economy and gives Ho good reason to believe he can bring mighty America to her knees.

He compares 1968 with 1931, emphasizes similarities and ignores differences. We have in 1968—as we had in 1931—the men, materials, tools, sources of energy and know-how.

We also have the same monetary mismanagement in 1968 we had from 1927 to 1931. Money juggling in the late 1920s resulted in world depression and political turmoil. It paved Adolph Hitler's path to power and made World War II a certainty.

Is the Federal Reserve Board now building the platform from which World War III is to be launched? Should symbol control substance?

JOHN GRANTHAM,
Kenwood.

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Friday, April 26, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Personal Touch

Editor — I noted that Arthur Hoppe in his April 10 column made the inference that the U.S. forces in Vietnam pay approximately \$40 for each Vietnamese civilian that they accidentally kill. While I can understand how such stories have become started, the record should be set straight . . .

For many years in Japan, Korea and Okinawa, the U.S. Armed Forces have conformed to a local custom known as "solatium." When a local national is injured, killed or his property severely damaged by an instrumentality of the U.S. Armed Forces, regardless of fault, representatives of the unit involved including the individual directly involved, if possible, go to the injured party or to his family and offer their sympathy and regret and at the same time tender a formal letter expressing those feelings along with a token amount of money. The money is always in new currency and is always inconspicuously presented in a sealed envelope. Over the years the system has worked well for it gives a personal touch to the compensation procedures created by the U.S. law and gives evidence that the United States conforms to the local customs.

As an Army legal officer and a foreign claims commissioner in Korea during 1964-65, I became familiar with the use of solatium. In 1965, I was transferred to Saigon to become chief of claims operations in Vietnam. It became apparent that much of the anger and bitterness generated by incidents involving U.S. forces were caused by the fact that while injured Vietnamese were given claim forms and told to seek compensation, they were left with the feeling that the Americans really did not care whether they were injured or not. I was told many times by Vietnamese claimants that they would have been happier having someone come to their homes to express sympathy than with the

compensation they ultimately received. There was also a problem of delay in providing compensation when investigations and payment had to be carried out under war time conditions. With combat connected claims the situation is far worse, for the United States by statute forbids the payment of this class of claims. Such claims had to be sent to the Republic of Vietnam MILCAP program which at that time was slow and uncertain. The commanders in the field also wanted a device whereby they could make small payments to individuals or to families who had been injured by U.S. action, to tide these persons over until more permanent relief could be provided.

In response to the need for some program, we requested the Department of Defense in coordination with the U.S. Embassy that we be allowed to make solatium payments in Vietnam. Permission was granted in the Spring of 1966 and the program was put into effect. The solatium regulation as I drafted it provided for a 4000 dong (piasters) maximum (approximately \$40) for each Vietnamese civilian killed.

The fallacy of this story is that the money is given only as part of a condolence visit and is completely independent of any claims procedure. In the short time that I worked with the program I paid many claims on a compensation basis where the claimant had previously received solatium.

The program is by no means perfect and is difficult for many field units to carry out in practice, but it has produced a great amount of good will where properly administered and has done a significant job in convincing those Vietnamese who come in contact with the program that governments can exist that aid the common people.

DUNCAN R. McPHERSON,
Attorney at Law.

Stockton.

Share the Culture

Editor—As a property owner and businessman on Haight street, I was delighted to see the pictures and read the story in *The Chronicle* last week of the young man who walked naked from Civic Center Plaza to Fillmore after astonishing a group of visiting nuns.

This is the type of culture that should be displayed elsewhere, namely Civic Center Plaza, Union Square and Nob Hill.

M. HERSCOWITZ.

San Francisco.

'Abandon Pretense'

Editor — The supposedly face saving tussle over a peace-negotiating site between North Vietnam and the United States is puerile, counterproductive, dishonest and ludicrous.

Mr. Johnson's ringing words, "We will go anyplace . . ." still reverberate around the world — which now knows that this was another big lie.

Rarely has a head of a mighty nation so blatantly, and so soon, reneged on a public promise.

What motives can possibly have been powerful enough to explain such open international deceit?

One possible answer is that Mr. Johnson never expected — and perhaps did not even want — a positive response from North Vietnam.

A more likely — and appalling — explanation is that the U.S.' hands are tied; that the pretense of being mere invited helpers of a small, independent, democratic country against foreign aggression is now placing Messrs. Thieu and Ky in the role of principals. Peace to them would probably mean a hole in the head — and that's how much they need it.

Unless, therefore, we abandon pretense, dismiss trivialities and act in good faith as the principals which in fact we are, we and the world can forget about peace hopes for a decade or so.

M. L. BRAMSON.

San Francisco.

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Monday, April 29, 1968



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Answer to 'Hardnose'

Editor — Supervisor William "Hardnose" Blake says that we poor people of San Francisco are not welcome at the zoo if we don't have money to pay our way into it. If we didn't have to pay such high real estate taxes to support this hick town we could afford to buy our way into his third rate zoo.

FREDERICK P. PICKARD.
San Francisco.

It's a Cat's Life

Editor — Your household columnist, Adeline Daley, need not fear she will inspire the wrath of cat lovers with the feeble claims that the cat needs a new image simply because no cat stars in a television series and no cat has been celebrated in prose by Albert Payson Terhune. For cat lovers know that T. S. Eliot, perhaps the greatest modern poet in the English language, devoted an entire volume of poetry to extolling the charms of cat personalities. With such a lofty image, the cat may hesitate to descend to the level of television.

As for dogs, they would have better public relations, if their relations were not so public.

CATHERINE SANG.
Menlo Park.

Adopting a Child

Editor — The 20,000 children living in foster homes in California can take little comfort in the platitudes the adoption agencies shower on themselves, because fifty thousand couples have been refused an adoption in California since 1960.

My wife and I tried to adopt a baby in 1966. We bought the child in what we'll call the black market for \$500. Six months later he was taken from us when we tried to legally adopt him, because of a difference in religion.

We know of many couples who want to care for and love children regardless of age, sex, color or

physical handicaps, and who cannot or do not wish to have natural children. These children in foster homes need loving permanent homes, not foster-care homes where love is occasional and where the child can be moved 15 times before adulthood.

What is needed now is a change in the State adoption laws, which were originally enacted in 1872 "to promote the welfare of the child." Is promoting the welfare of a child sending it to 15 different sets of parents by the time it reaches adulthood?

TONY CLAMAN, Founder,
Freedom for Adoptive Children.
San Francisco.

Arab-Israel Relations

Editor—Paul Vapneck's letter to you April 5 needs a good deal of correction. He alleges that "the area now called the West Bank of the Jordan River was never part of the country of Jordan but was occupied in 1948 by armed forces of what was then the country called Transjordan" and that "this military occupation was in defiance of the United Nations resolution of November 29, 1947." He seems to indicate that the present military invasion and occupation on the part of the aggressor Israel is perfectly moral and legal.

The partition resolution divided the country of Palestine into six parts; three, or 56 per cent of the total area reserved for a "Jewish State," and the other three, or 43 per cent, for an "Arab State." Jerusalem and environs, .65 per cent was to be an "international zone" to be administered by the U.N.

The Arabs rejected the partition on the grounds that it violated the provisions of the U.N. Charter which gives a people the right to decide its own destiny. At this time, the Palestinian Arabs formed the two-thirds majority of the country. The Zionists, on the other hand, had no reason to reject the partition which gave them sovereignty over the Arab territory and the power to expel and dispossess the inhabitants.

The six months between the signing of the partition and the withdrawal of the British was used by the Zionists to seize as much territory of Palestine as they could before the British left and thereby confront the world with a fait accompli. The most outstanding incident was the massacre of more than 250 in Deir Yasin on April 9, 1948, before the departure of the British and before the Arab-Israeli conflict. The subsequent panic resulted in the exodus of 300,000 Palestinians. After the British left, the futile attempt by the Palestinians to retain their home country was made with the help of the indigenous forces of the Arab League and King Abdullah of Transjordan.

The West Bank became an integral part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan only after Israel annexed, by use of force, 25 per cent more territory than was allotted to her by the U.N. partition plan. By the end of 1948 the number of refugees increased to 900,000. The Gaza Strip became an isolated enclave from the West Bank. Since the West Bank became economically non-viable, it was annexed to Transjordan, with the consent of the Palestinians, following a national conference.

About recognition of Israel. One must realize that, as it exists, Israel is not a legal entity. It is in violation of the U.N. resolution which created it, and the partition plan itself was illegal and based on the use of force. The exclusion of the rightful inhabitants of that land and the treatment of the indigenous Arab population makes it impossible for the Arabs to recognize Israel. If Israel were a real democracy — a multinational state, there would be swift recognition.

Now, more than ever, the Arab world is ready to make far reaching and fundamental concessions, as evidenced by their endorsement of the Indian and Latin American resolutions before the U.N. Security Council last year.

TERRY THOMAS,
Action Committee on
American-Arab Relations.
Box 1145, San Rafael.

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