

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Domestic Disarmament --Pro and Con

Editor — . . . I don't think the Mayor believes or hopes that criminals will bring in their guns. I don't. But the gun that killed Robert Kennedy had first been in the possession of an ordinary housewife. Guns such as these will hopefully be turned in, those owned by ordinary citizens who have no need for them.

The idea of tight gun control as I see it is arithmetically simple — fewer guns, fewer shootings. Control does not aim to effect elimination, but limitation. As a proponent of tight gun control I do not expect that any legislation, no matter how effective, will cure the shooting ills in America, but that it will to some measurable and salutary extent relieve us of these ills.

DOROTHY SILVA.

Daly City.

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Editor — I am glad to know that Mayor Alioto's gun plan is working and that all of the burglars, robbers, thugs and murderers in San Francisco are turning in their weapons. I understand they will also turn in their broken bottles, gasoline, clubs, blackjacks, chains, knives and belts. Bully for good old Joe. He thinks of everything.

T. M. WEST.

Daly City.

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Editor — Congress recently passed a crime bill with an inadequate gun control provision. The House Judiciary Committee just rejected a stronger gun control law despite the public outcry for action.

But no matter what new legislation is proposed to register guns and license their owners, Congress will do nothing until and unless it is convinced that the people want such laws. We have fought for many years, without success, against the organized lobbies in

Washington and their allies in the Congress.

I propose that each community in every hamlet and city in our country form a Citizens Committee for Proper Gun Control. Each committee should advise its Representatives and Senators in Washington that Congress should not adjourn this year until it passes proper gun control legislation.

No one I know in Congress wants to eliminate the right of peaceful citizens to own and operate guns for hunting or sports purposes. Licensing gun owners and registering their weapons will not abridge this right any more than auto and driver registration and licensing prevent you from operating your car.

Without popular support, a good gun control law will never pass. With forceful support, the gun lobby can be overcome.

BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL.
New York.

The writer is a Member of the House of Representatives, representing the 8th District from New York.—Editor.

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Editor — . . . Instead of restrictive gun control legislation what is needed is more severe penalties for persons who commit crimes with firearms.

The complete disregard of the constitutional right of citizens to keep and bear arms that is being exhibited by segments of the press and certain elected officials in the present hysterical campaign to restrict, control and or deny gun ownership is appalling.

DONALD H. COSTELLO.
Chula Vista.

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Editor — It's about time someone shot down the gun lobby's big lie that the registration of firearms will keep hunters from engaging in their manly sport. Has the registration of automobiles and the licensing of their drivers kept

people from behind the wheel? Has the licensing of bicycles ended cycling as a sport? Has the licensing of dogs prevented people from acquiring them as pets? No. And no one with a legitimate, sporting interest in firearms can offer a single valid reason against their registration.

MIRIAM B. MURPHY.

San Francisco.

Reagan on Violence

Editor — How can Governor Reagan justify his assumption that the "climate of violence" in which Senator Kennedy was assassinated was partly caused by California institutions of higher education?

Why does not Governor Reagan examine the roots of violence? He could then support mental health programs instead of slashing funds and weakening institutions providing help for the mentally disturbed. He could support instead of downgrade the institutions of higher education aiming to educate the many. Instead he has chosen the atmosphere of mass hysteria surrounding every act of public violence . . .

KATHERINE OBERLANDER.

El Cerrito.

'It's a Commie Plot'

Editor — America is not really as "disturbed" as we are being told. What we are witnessing is a concerted movement with its main thrust from the far left to convince us that we are sick, sick, sick.

The Communists and those in harmony with them hope to persuade not only world opinion but Americans at home that we are an overly violent and aggressive nation. It would lend credence to their propaganda drive that our involvement in Vietnam is immoral and illegal.

G. BASIL DUNNING.

San Francisco.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who Gets the Votes?

Editor— . . . It appears that more than 100 of the 174 delegates to the Democratic National Convention are committing themselves to the candidacy of Hubert Humphrey, and now I'm wondering why the hell we bothered to have a primary election in the first place.

In the primary, Senator Kennedy received about 46 per cent of the vote, Senator McCarthy 42 per cent and the Lynch Delegation (Humphrey-leaning) about 12 per cent. To me that indicates an 88 per cent vote against the Lynch Delegation. I think it's about time these delegates represented the people. I feel the delegate votes should go to the next largest vote-getter, Senator McCarthy. He and Kennedy, in polling 88 per cent of the Democratic vote, clearly indicate that we Democrats do not want Humphrey . . .

LESLIE LAFAYETTE

Hayward

Report from Pakistan

Editor—The news, as reported in your esteemed daily May 21 regarding notice given by the Pakistan government for the termination of the lease of the U. S. Communications unit at Badaber, near Peshawar, did not give a correct report. Following is a correct version as it appeared in 'Dawn' May 20.

"Mr Arshad Husain, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, told the National Assembly May 20 that Pakistan had taken the step 'In keeping with our policy of developing bilateral relations of friendship and mutual understanding with all countries . . . We can have friendly relations with the USSR, China and the U.S. without these being at the cost of any others.' Referring to Pakistan's relations with the U.S. the Foreign Minister said that 'the U.S. has given ample evidence of its deep concern for our economic development. Its contribution to our nation-building task

has been outstanding. We have no doubt, Pak-U.S. relations will continue to develop.'

"Replying to another question Mr. Husain informed the House that Pakistan's membership of CENTO and SEATO 'is under constant review.' He said that Pakistan has also been constantly keeping in view the changing roles of these alliances following the gradual detente between the Super powers . . . over the last few years the situation in the two regions had undergone great changes from the time the treaties were concluded . . . The most notable development had been the growing relaxation between the member States and the States generally hostile to the pacts . . . Suspicion has yielded place to ideas of co-operation and coexistence. Co-operation between the Soviet Union and the U.S. as well as the regional members of CENTO is growing day by day in all fields."

Z. M. FAROOQI,
Consul General,
Pakistan.

San Francisco.

Who's Violent?

Editor—The phrase "lawlessness and violence" is often a paradoxical cliché.

The epitome of obeying the law, the height of adhering to official U. S. policy is to be violent (join the military and kill).

Much of today's lawlessness is done by people who disobey the law by refusing to be violent. . .

S. ALANSO.

San Francisco.

The Sickness

Editor—Exit Robert F. Kennedy. Enter distraught black people and Mexican-Americans who chose voting instead of rioting and anguished young people, who, for causes of civil rights and an end to the costly and dehumanized war in Vietnam, put their abundant energy into campaigns instead of dem-

onstrations. These groups surely feel disenfranchised, and I suspect many are understandably even more skeptical of the Establishment's method of accomplishing goals through accepted political means.

The lives of this country's outstanding, benevolent and morally-conscious individuals, proponents of peace and brotherhood, can be and have been extinguished. Whether single persons or conspiracies are responsible, a far-reaching violence and sickness in our social fabric is compellingly indicated. The trick will be to fix our society before it fixes us.

ANGELA HORIN

La Crescenta.

Double Standards

Editor—Governor Reagan says we are the victims "of an attitude that says a man can choose the laws he must obey, that he can take the law into his own hands for a cause that crime does not necessarily mean punishment." I agree but, who preaches such a doctrine? Mr. Reagan blames the "demagogic words of so-called leaders" . . . Surely the Governor needs a dictionary, for he was only describing his own shadow . . .

His statement may be paraphrased to read, an attitude that says a nation can choose the treaties it must honor, that it can take international law into its own hands for a just and holy cause, and expect to get away with it because of naked power. Webster's defines demagogue as a person who appeals to the emotions and prejudices of the people. If we violate our solemn promise to stay out of Vietnam for apple pie and motherhood, then why should we be so shocked when Sirhan Sirhan breaks a law for what he believed would protect dates, figs and Arabic motherhood? Did not Sirhan scream, "Wait, I can explain, I did it for my country." The same excuse we use with our once-allies.

KEITH DAVIS.

San Francisco.

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Tuesday, June 18, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Boobus Americanus'

Editor— . . . Two score and ten years ago, to save him from drink, good old Boobus Americanus, under pressure of the purest idealism, passed a law. It prohibited the sale of drink. Whereupon this nation became one of the drinkingest on earth.

Today, to save him from guns, good old Boob is under the same pressure, to pass a law to prohibit the sale of guns.

DON STEBENS.

Mill Valley.

Patriotism

Editor—In San Francisco, the Mayor and Supervisors are busy prattling about guns. The newspapers are occupied with reporting gun control arguments. Flag Day is not mentioned by any of these patriots. Our flag is ignored on its day of honor.

In tiny Findlay, Ohio, the mayor proclaims his city "Flag City, U.S.A." Every citizen joins in displaying flags donated by the Sons of the American Revolution and distributed door to door by Boy Scouts and Campfire Girls. Service men and women are honored in a special ceremony.

In which city was democracy better served on June 14 1968?

JOHN J. O'ROUKE.

San Francisco.

Words of a Leader

Editor—I was pleased to read Governor Reagan's assertion that the widespread attitude of lawlessness "has been spurred (by) demagogic and irresponsible words of so-called leaders in and out of public office . . ."

I invite his attention to words of that kind that have been freely used by a prominent politician. He is a California Republican; therefore he should be especially concerned. In his book, "Suffer, Little Children," Max Rafferty devotes a whole chapter of vituperation

against "the enemies of education." They are, he says, "hypocrites," "profiteers," "mossbacks," "demagogues," "wardheelers." He brands them as "the fiery-eyed, gibberish-muttering, rattlesnake-handling brothers and sisters of the Lunatic Fringe." Nor is that all; what "they are doing to your children" is horrifying; "The priests who prod them forward are hot-eyed, with tell-tale patches of saliva gathering in the corners of their mouths . . . They have been crammed to the craw with educationism, as long ago the zombie followers of the Old Man of the Mountain were stuffed with hashish."

One can imagine how paranoiacs would be incited to take dire action against enemies whose dangerous character is thus exposed to public view. I hope that Governor Reagan will express his opinion on this subject again even more forcibly.

JOEL H. HILDEBRAND.

Berkeley.

A Strange Silence

Editor—When I was serving in Vietnam, I remember reading about how the people in the United States were in the streets protesting about so-called United States atrocities and genocide in Vietnam.

For the past several weeks we have been reading how the Viet Cong have been firing heavy artillery into the center of Saigon. As anyone who has been to Saigon can tell you, there are no military targets of any significance located there. It must, therefore, be concluded that the indiscriminate firing of artillery into the center of the city is for the purpose of killing and maiming as many civilians as possible and for propaganda effect.

What I would like to know is where are all those people who were demonstrating against atrocities and genocide in the past? They seem to be strangely quiet now that it apparently has become

the modus operandi of the Viet Cong.

RICHARD J. FAMBRINI.

San Mateo.

Nine Old Men

Editor—No wonder our law enforcement is breaking down. Thanks to nine old men on our Supreme Court who nullify the law of the land. The death of Robert Kennedy sure should bring this situation in true focus. I think these superannuated Justices should be told to ask for retirement.

By their decisions they have tied the hands of our law enforcement officers. They have turned criminals loose on society. It is time for a change.

FRANK J. SMITH.

Petaluma.

Petition Against War

Editor—We are students at Berkeley High School, and oppose the United States aggression and involvement in the war in Vietnam. We object to our useless slaughter of the Vietnamese people and we support their right of self determination. We plead for withdrawal of all American military forces from Vietnam, without delay.

Although we are not yet of age to vote, many of us shall be fighting and dying in one or two years in this war. For this reason, we believe signatures of this kind are significant and should be considered with respect . . .

MARI VISHER,

AMY KLEINSTEIN,

ALLISON GIG DANG,

TAMAR SAMBOR.

The four writers obtained 552 signatures during lunch hours from other students at the high school for their petition opposing the war. They have sent their petitions to President Johnson, presidential candidates, and their local congressmen.—Editor

San Francisco Chronicle

THE VOICE OF THE WEST

Charles de Young Thieriot, Editor and Publisher
George T. Cameron, Publisher 1925 to 1955



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In Defense of San Francisco

Editor—An article in The Chronicle last week referred to an editorial written in the San Francisco Medical Society Bulletin by Dr. Paul Scholten, a local doctor. In his editorial Dr. Scholten described San Francisco as a city unfit to handle the very important American Medical Association convention now going on. Dr. Scholten warned the doctors and their families of the homosexuals, panhandling hippies and famous restaurants serving bad food and clipping patrons in the process. Market street was also highly criticized because of the BART construction and the run-down hash houses, peep-shows and homosexuals which gave it the appearance of a Mexican border town. San Francisco's fine restaurants did not escape his editorializing; they were referred to as plush-lined clip joints where you were forced to indulge in numerous cocktails before they would serve you, even their dinners were a disappointment because of pre-frozen food and electronic warming ovens.

On the plus side he recommends the clubs in the Broadway night life area as a place for the visitor to unwind plus some good restaurants in the same area.

It is shocking to me to think that a San Franciscan would write this kind of an editorial on San Francisco in a national publication. To my way of thinking Dr. Scholten has done a great disservice to our city. As a San Franciscan he has failed to bring to the attention of the visiting doctors the many cultural attractions available to the visitors such as our San Francisco Symphony, the Opera, A.C.T. the Civic Light Opera, de Young Museum, the Palace of the Legion of Honor and the San Francisco Museum of Art.

Many visitors to our city are delighted with a visit to our Zoo, to Steinhart Aquarium in Golden Gate Park, Fisherman's Wharf, the Japanese Tea Garden, the Maritime Museum or a drive across the

Golden Gate Bridge to Marin county and Muir Woods, a visit to Mission Dolores or a cruise on San Francisco Bay. All of these attractions provide our visitors added enjoyment.

Our restaurants in San Francisco have been done a great injustice by Dr. Scholten's remarks. I think Trader Vic's, LaBourgogne, Jack's, Le Trianon, Empress of China, Amelios, Julius Castle, Ernies, Blue Fox plus many others offer excellent cuisine and service and prices are far lower than comparable restaurants in other large cities. Despite what Dr. Scholten says, you are not forced to wait in the bar unless you neglected to make a reservation.

Finally, I can see no justification for the Doctor's remarks against Market street. He has failed to recognize and give the voters credit for recognizing a problem and doing something about it. A \$24 million bond issue was passed to make Market street one of the most handsome dramatic boulevards in the nation and the world. When a bond issue is passed today with 70 per cent of the voters in favor of the bond, I think it is a strong indication the residents of San Francisco are proud of their city. As a result of their action at the polls the peep-shows and other undesirable elements associated with Market street will disappear due to improved property values.

Personally I am proud of our city and I am willing to contribute my time and efforts to make it an even better place in which to live. I am also proud to welcome people to our city and to show them our many sights and attractions. If Dr. Scholten feels the way he does about San Francisco he too should take an active part to correct what he does not like or move to Los Angeles.

DAVID N. PLANT,
General Manager,
Sir Francis Drake Hotel.

San Francisco.

A Saturated Market?

Editor—Perhaps I might enlighten Gus Gossert (Letters, June 11) about some of the issues which are raised in the current KSFR-KSAN controversy.

Those of us who object to the change from classics to rock are not necessarily "biased" against rock music. There are some extraordinarily sophisticated things coming out of the rock movement, and I, for one, am delighted to see them happening. The two-fold question is, 1) does an area which already has at least three "underground rock" stations need another, and 2) is it right that one of the country's best concert music stations be destroyed to provide it?

Mr. Gossert is obviously quite as biased toward rock music as he accuses Mr. Commanday of being against it. The remark that the playing of concert music constitutes "stagnancy" reveals appalling ignorance and musical deprivation. The value of good concert music lies in the fact that it contains quality and substance enough to bear, indeed, to demand a rehearing. How much of the current rock music will survive the test of time?

What was once a great radio station has been destroyed by a greedy corporation, and we, the San Francisco listening audience, the poorer for it.

TAM HENDERSON

San Francisco

What's the Use?

Editor—Of what use are the primaries if a nonparticipant is to benefit? Kennedy and McCarthy battled each other all the way to California. Many voted for Kennedy; many voted for McCarthy.

It appears now that Humphrey will be the nominee for his party. If so, his nomination will be an affront and an injustice against not only Democrats but Republicans who wish fervently for an alteration of objectives in foreign policy and a renewal of effort on the domestic scene.

MICHAEL GEOFFREY.

San Francisco.

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Thursday, June 20, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No Time for Despair

Editor — The senseless murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy has tragically deprived the American people of one of the two outspoken opponents of a military-minded establishment which, in the opinion of many, has undermined the nation's strength and all but destroyed its influence abroad. Six months ago we were the apparent prisoners of this establishment, faced with a choice of re-electing Lyndon Johnson or confiding the future into the hands of Richard Nixon.

Then the unbelievable happened. Senator Eugene McCarthy's bold challenge forced an apparently impregnable President to renounce re-election and, at long last, to undertake a serious effort to end the disastrous war in Vietnam. (Since then it has become apparent that the ostensible de-escalation for which President Johnson demanded a quid pro quo has been nothing more than a geographical rearrangement of an actually intensified bombing campaign against North Vietnam.)

Robert Kennedy brought into the anti-administration campaign a convincing concern for the long-neglected needs of the poor and underprivileged. Together, McCarthy and Kennedy, though rivals for the Democratic nomination, activated not merely a massive revolt against the Johnson-Humphrey foreign policy but a popular determination to make a better America.

And now, because one of these two protagonists of a new order has been slain, it is being said that Vice President Hubert Humphrey, heir to the Johnson establishment and stout defender of its policies, has become the nominee of the Democratic party.

Why? Only one of the two forward-looking opponents of the Administration could have obtained the Democratic nomination. Why should the tragic death of

one deny the nomination to the other?

How can those who believed in and supported Robert Kennedy now acquiesce in the nomination of Hubert Humphrey, a man whose long and distinguished progressive record has been marred by far more than dutiful support of the man who made him Vice President?

It is said that Humphrey cannot be beaten because, without presenting himself or his ideas to the American people, he has supposedly garnered the votes of a majority of the machine-picked delegates to the Democratic convention. Perhaps this is true, but these delegates are not the people.

Similarly it was said until last March that Lyndon Johnson could not be defeated. Yet he was defeated by the massive uprising of the people in support of one man who dared to challenge the unchallengeable. That one man, Eugene McCarthy, can win in August if the saddened Kennedy forces rally to his support. And only if McCarthy wins in August will the American people face a meaningful choice in November.

This is a time for sadness, but not a time for despair. It is the time for an outcry from all the people of this land who, like Robert Kennedy, "dare to dream things that never were and say, 'Why not?'"

JAMES P. WARBURG.
Greenwich, Conn.

School Safety

Editor — Three important bills on the safety of public school buildings (AB420, 421 and SB 1001) are at present being considered by the State Legislature. All relate to the public interest and bear on the lives and physical welfare of California children and teachers. AB420 prohibits the use of unsafe buildings for schools after June, 1975; AB421 provides

for a bond issue to help school districts meet this deadline.

Since the major calamity of the 1933 Long Beach earthquake (which occurred, fortunately, after school hours), the Field Act regulates public school construction in the State. The effectiveness of this Act was tested during the 1940 Imperial Valley shock when many pre-, but not post-, Field Act schools were damaged. The lack of a damaging earthquake in California in recent years must not be an excuse for a reduction in the minimum safety code. Widespread support and argument for AB420-421 will ensure all public schools meet minimum requirements by 1975.

SB1001 excludes buildings used for junior college purposes from the definition of school building in the Field ACT. The history of earthquake hazard throughout the world argues strongly against such a reduction of the present regulations. Indeed, private and parochial schools should be included.

BRUCE A BOLT,
Professor of Seismology,
University of California
Berkeley

'Get the Best Man'

Editor — Should Vice President Humphrey be nominated, his only chance of capturing "peace votes" from either party depends on his ability to express a convincing, uncompromising, unequivocal renunciation of his previous escalation-endorsing policy.

A lame statement that he has been a captive of the present administration will not do. A "sermonette" deploring the past and looking forward to a brighter future will not do. Encouraging free discussion and "condoning" dissent will not do.

The days of "voting for the lesser evil" are gone. Our next president desperately needs to be more than "less bad." He must be good.

HERBERT BAUER
Davis

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Friday, June 21, 1968



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Just Another Tax'

Editor — . . . It is not quite clear how the registration of guns as proposed in the city's new gun law, will prevent their use. What does seem clear is that the Mayor has found another source of taxation . . . Multiply the reported estimates of guns by the \$2 fee. It adds up to a nice figure.

And how about the commuters who pass through San Francisco with their guns to go into the northern counties for their hunting? The Mayor seems to have forgotten them.

JOHN KUCIN.

San Mateo.

Buying Quiet

Editor — In your Business World section June 20, J. A. Livingstone says the dollar may survive the next 12 to 18 months "If only there are no riots to force added federal expenditures to buy quiet in the ghettos."

This is very plain English for the Black Power claim that only hell raising will force comfortable white folks to do anything about intolerable conditions in the ghettos.

FRANK R. KENNEL.

Palo Alto.

Understanding Panthers

Editor — A good deal has been printed and said recently about the Black Panther party. Most of this has not, we feel, portrayed the true position of this group of concerned young men and women. We feel able to make this statement for we have had the chance to listen to and talk with the leaders of the Black Panthers. But ours is not necessarily to criticize the news media. We simply wish to espouse the cause of these black people who are deeply committed to helping themselves and their brothers to a fair share of what is supposedly offered to all men in this country. In short, to quote the tenth point of their program, they

want "land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice and peace."

We feel that the majority of the white community sees only a threat in the Panthers party policy of arming themselves for self defense. The policy is not one of aggression, but one of protecting themselves and their community. Aside from this, little or no coverage has been given to other constructive aspects of the party. For example, a member of our group witnessed a number of Panthers easing tension among black students at Berkeley High School immediately after the death of Martin Luther King. He feels that this and other similar actions had a good deal to do with avoiding outbreaks in Oakland and Berkeley like those in Washington, Chicago and other cities. There are numerous other constructive areas with which the Black Panthers are concerned, and we feel the white community ought to become acquainted with them. Fear of the unknown is no less fearsome now than it was two thousand years ago. The Black Panther party representing the wants and needs of black people has been and is an unknown.

We now urge the white community and especially the news media not to react with fear, but to try to understand more about the Panthers and their work. We think it will find them to be a courageous, committed group working not toward destruction, but toward a just society in which blacks may have an equal share.

BARRY MITCHELL,

Chairman,
Seminarians Committed
Against Racism.

The above was signed also by 46 members of the group, many of them seminarians at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley.—Editor.

Homosexuals in Society

Editor — "A Medical View of the Homosexual" (The Chronicle,

June 19) notes the following prevailing attitudes: there will be a homosexual revolution; homosexuals are mentally ill and potentially curable; and homosexuals are criminal and dangerous. These attitudes reflect the spectrum ranging from "whitewash" to "condemnation."

There is today, another approach, which I witnessed within the neuro-psychiatric clinic of a local hospital, under the competent guidance of a noted psychiatrist, aided by a religious cotherapist. Simply, it took the form of orienting the homosexual to the fact that his way of life was a conscious choice, freely made, and prescinded from any familial identity. Once this basic, and demonstrable guideline was accepted, the homosexual was then prepared to accept his role in an ordered society wherein any consequences of his free choice must be borne by him, and him alone. In short, like his heterosexual counterpart, the merits and demerits of his sexual orientation were merely one facet of living in a community in which sex played no more or no less a role than athletics.

Under this approach I saw the frightened, the guilt ridden, the suicidal and the "mamas boys" come out from under a cloud of shame and self-disgust. Where religion played a restraining role, the individual would be advised to make a choice between the religion or the sexual pattern of his choice. (In many instances religion and homosexual behavior do not conflict—in others the conflict is irresolute.) Again, however, the emphasis was on "freedom of choice" and accept the consequence.

Those fortunate enough to have been exposed to this climate have taken responsible positions within the community. They, in more instances than not, live openly and are able by example to prove that the homosexual can stand beside the heterosexual working for a mutually beneficial community.

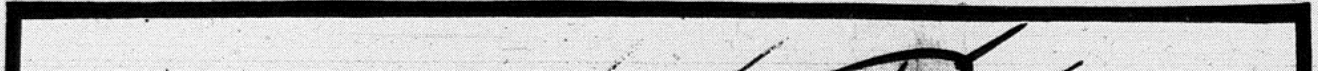
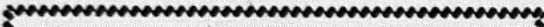
THOMAS M. EDWARDS
San Francisco.

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Monday, June 24, 1968



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An End to a Hell

Editor — Permissiveness is not the cause of today's anti-social attitudes, but frustration. The greater the frustration the more aggressive and extensive the reaction. Does Governor Reagan imply that the blacks are revolutionary today because they were reared in an environment of permissiveness? The poor are not asking for instant paradise but a beginning to end their present hell.

SAHAG AVEDISIAN.

San Francisco.

Patriotism

Editor — I was so pleasantly surprised to see the name of my home town, Findlay, Ohio, on the editorial page of The Chronicle that I decided to take it upon myself to answer the question posed in Mr. O'Rourke's letter, about Flag Day, 1968.

The flag is a symbol. It stands for our country and its democratic way of life. But it is not our country. It is only a brightly colored piece of cloth.

Words (also symbols) are not deeds, and flag-waving is not nation building. If, on June 14, 1968, the democratically elected officials were trying to find a solution to a problem they considered to be of vital concern to their city and to the nation, while the mayor of Findlay, Ohio, was waving his flag, then I would say democracy was better served in San Francisco.

JAMES R. PARKER.

Alameda.

Protect the Animals

Editor — After having read the account of what was termed "vandalism" at the Knowland Zoo in Oakland, I think "sadism" would have been a more appropriate term.

Providing a watchman during the day wouldn't be a bad idea either, especially in the Baby Zoo. I have seen children taunt and otherwise abuse the loose animals. It's

a wonderful idea to let these creatures (the animals, that is) have their freedom, but it seems only fair to provide them with some protection at the same time.

L. GLADSTONE.

Oakland.

'No Jabots for Me'

Editor — One of The Chronicle's winsome women writers seems of late to have set herself up as a Beau Brummel on men's styles — or would it be Belle Brummel?

She has written that our present honest tweeds, unfinished worsteds, Shetlands and stuff like that, are dumpy.

The lady would have us modeling the creations of Pierre Cardin, Hardy Amies, and other women's designers, with nipped-in waists, long double slits in back, skinny pants, and leather booties.

There are hints that we might be gorgeous in Nehru jackets with lace jabots and lavalieres. We note on the same pages an undercurrent for men's perfumes and over-the-shoulder bags. Luckily the kilts-for-men thing died in agony.

If we were going back to the days of the Three Musketeers with wicked rapiers and plumed hats there might be some excuse for dainty waists and scents.

But as it is, may the good Lord deliver us.

ROBIN KINKEAD.

San Francisco.

Protect the Police

Editor — The recent slaying of a San Francisco Police Officer by robbery suspects in Golden Gate Park points up the vital weakness in any gun law, that a criminal can and will get a gun if he wants one.

I propose some additions to police car equipment. First, that the front doors of police cars be lined inside with several layers of a similar type of light-weight flak jacket material now used by U.S. soldiers in combat; such material could

stop a bullet at short range; that windshield and both front side windows be made bullet proof, and that all cars be installed with a loud-speaker mounted under the hood behind the grill.

Further, police policy in approaching automobiles that have been reported carrying suspects in crimes of violence should be changed: The police car would pull up to the suspect vehicle and by use of the loud-speaker order the occupants out of the auto; the police then can open the front doors of their car, get out and use the reinforced door as a shield while the suspects alight. If any shooting erupts, the police would be well protected behind the door and could either shoot it out with the suspects or radio for help.

Of course, the police won't use such techniques on all stopped motorists; however, where a radio report comes in that indicates the suspects are armed, that a crime has been committed, such a policy should be used, not only on crimes of violence but in riot areas if necessary.

I would also suggest that bullet proof glass be installed in all outside windows in local police stations to thwart snipers.

Finally, the loud-speaker could be used to inform suspects of their constitutional rights before any officer exposes himself to possible injury or death, and would comply even further to Supreme Court rules.

The police are our front line of defense. Our safety is only as good as theirs. Let's get on it and back them up.

JAMES E. WHELCHER,
Official Court Reporter,
City Hall.

San Francisco.

Nice Visit

Editor — You have a fine, hospitable city. I thoroughly enjoyed my stay and look forward to my next visit.

VINCENT A. JOY, M.D.
East Rockaway, N.Y.

San Francisco Chronicle
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

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Tuesday, June 25, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How Many More?

Editor — Frank Spotwood was sent to us in 1966 by the Youth Opportunity Center as a draftsman-trainee. He was a recent arrival from Mississippi, a Negro American, strong, tall, healthy and able. After less than a year in our office, he was drafted, sent to Texas for infantry training and on to Vietnam, where he arrived in January 1968. In February I received a letter from him, an excerpt of it following:

" . . . I have been over here one month and five days and been in three fire fights, lasting about 1 hour and 20 minutes. Bullets were all around me over me everywhere. I hope to stay alive if I can because things are getting pretty bad (here). Now I'm in the 25th Infantry Division, called the (Wolfhounds). We are known to kill all the VC alive. To see some of my friends get killed is something to think about but I have to keep on going and fighting hoping I'll come out alive . . ."

On Friday I was informed that Frank had been killed in action.

Frank's blood, together with that of the other 25,067 Americans who have died to date in this senseless conflict, stains the hands of the old men whose rigid and mindless pursuit of abstract ideologies has sent them there. How many more will have to follow!

There is only one way to stop the fighting, and that is to stop fighting. The leaders of our armed forces are familiar with the logistics of an orderly withdrawal. The time for it is now.

K. GUTTMAN,
Vice President,
Kasin, Guttman & Associates,
Consulting Engineers.
San Francisco.

Case Against Gun Laws

Editor—As one who has owned and used guns for 45 of his 55 years, I wish to voice my protest against any stricter gun legislation than already exists for the following reasons:

1. Registration of firearms

would result only in locating those belonging to law-abiding citizens, who would not be the ones likely to commit crimes.

2. The law breakers, who after all comprise the element with which we are concerned, would not register their weapons anyway, for they would then be found to be ineligible to keep them.

3. Criminals usually steal both the cars and the firearms they use. Since car registration rarely deters them, why would firearms registration?

4. Registration admittedly would be "only a beginning," according to anti-gun proponents. The end result would be the elimination of private firearms ownership.

5. Surveys show that stringent gun controls do not ipso facto reduce crime but, ironically, often do just the reverse. The criminal element takes greater advantage of unarmed shopkeepers, householders, etc. (Of 183 urban areas recently surveyed by the FBI, only 52 had higher homicide rates than New York City with its Sullivan Law.)

My suggestions are as follows:

1. To calm down and realize that there is no "gun problem," but there is a crime problem. We should recognize that it is not the weapon a criminal employs that causes a crime to be perpetrated, but the motivation behind the criminal act. Any solution to the problem must take into account our current changing moral values, the high incidence of family breakdowns, poverty, inadequate education, ghettos, alcoholism, drug addiction, automobiles. Although three prominent U.S. leaders have been gunned down in the past five years, thousands of other lives have been taken by strangling, knifing, clubbing, bombing, arson, poisoning, etc.

2. To enforce existing laws (of which there are some 20,000 State and local ones) to control the misuse of firearms.

3. To recognize that additional legislation along these lines will

not contribute constructively toward the eradication of the criminal problem but will, conversely, create ill will amongst the decent citizenry who feel entitled to keep their firearms for legitimate purposes and without restrictive measures, and pursuant to their constitutional right to do so.

RAYMOND W. ICKES,
President,
American President Lines.
San Francisco.

'The Best'

Editor — Passing through San Francisco once more, and it was a pleasure to read your man O'Hara again. He is by far the best newspaper inquiring photographer in the country.

CLYDE CASTLEMAN.
New York City.

A Discouraging Fact

Editor — It is plain from The Chronicle's report of the decisions of the California Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (June 21) that those who contend local agencies are too susceptible to the pressures of developers and real estate interests to safeguard the esthetic values of the Lake and the public interest are right. The Agency voted to allow a 38-unit condominium to cover a bluff at Al Tahoe; above ground electrical service for a 40-acre subdivision in Tahoe Valley and septic tanks without provision for future sewer tie ins for the Glen Ridge Park development where also excessive road cuts will mar the Lake view.

The discouraging fact might as well be faced — the time for Federal authority to intervene is long overdue. As each year slips by the blight caused by greed and bad taste spreads around the lovely Lake and its beautiful surrounding valleys . . . One remembers ruefully the lovely little towns around the Swiss lakes and wonders why we in the United States despoil our natural beauty rather than cherish it.

M. C. HAYES.
South Lake Tahoe.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Honorable Solution

Editor — More and more people recognize that our leaders made a tragic mistake in involving us in a war on the mainland of Asia. The only honorable solution would be to admit our mistake, replace our leaders, bring our boys back home alive and return Vietnam to the Vietnamese according to the Geneva Agreement.

Every day of delaying this solution will cost us more blood, more taxes, more dishonor and more ruin to our economy . . .

MAX WEISSEBERG.

Fairfax.

One of the 'Bums'

Editor — As one of Governor Reagan's so-called "bums" who participated in the Poor Peoples March in Sacramento, I take strong exception to his attack on the March leaders in questioning their "motives and sincerity on the basis of their past record of law breaking." This appears to be a classic projection of the Governor's own lack of sincerity, his bad faith, and past indifference toward the plight of the minorities — the poor and the oppressed . . .

His obvious reluctance to speak to a group of California's poor was a patent insult that hurt and angered them. These were not rich and powerful constituents standing out in the hot sun for two hours, but poor people (and a few white middle-class supporters) who had traveled great distances to visit the Governor and members of the Legislature. They were men and women crying out for justice, dignity and a little higher slice on the hog. To be dismissed contemptuously as "bums" confirmed what they already knew instinctively, that the Governor of this State is calloused and indifferent to their needs and a tool of special interest groups that really run the State . . .

The Governor's simplistic response to the emergent violence in our land is stricter law enforcement and more police. His is ob-

viously reluctant to tackle the crying needs of the poor and oppressed that are the basic causes of the riots. Governor Reagan's solution is the ultimate insult to people who have been stripped of their dignity, exploited by a white racist society, and denied the legitimate handles of power that could change their condition. Where else can they go but to the streets? People only riot in desperation and despair as the ultimate expression of their hopelessness and powerlessness . . .

REV. E. GENE VOSELER,

Unitarian-Universality

Fellowship.

Sunnyvale.

The Real Enemy

Editor — Many Americans are now in favor of resuming full-scale bombing of Hanoi if the Paris talks fail.

But Hanoi is not a free agent to make peace. The politicians and militarists of North Vietnam are controlled by Russian communism just as surely as is the manufacture of the guns and rockets which are killing our soldiers. We could reduce Hanoi to rubble and kill every man, woman and child. But we would be no closer to peace because the guns and rockets would simply be moved farther into the jungle.

If we are going to be hawks, let us have the courage to face up to and to fight our real enemy, Russia. Or else let us have the moral courage to admit our mistake and to demand of our leaders that they bring our boys home from their terrible assignment of death and destruction.

ALEX WIBORG.

Tempe, Arizona.

Clarification

Editor — A friend sent me a copy of The Chronicle containing an article about me by Dilys Jones. The article certainly misrepresented my ideas on public schools. I am 100 per cent for public

schools, but not for tax supported government schools.

The Jones article starts out with the question: "Don't you think all children have the right to learn to read and write?" Then it says I answered; "I do not." This is absolutely wrong. My answer was that I do not think they have the right to force others to pay for instructing them to read and write.

I certainly believe everybody has the right to learn to read and write. A man would be crazy if he thought everybody didn't have the right to use all the talents God gave him.

I wish to correct the misinterpretation of my ideas on the difference between government schools and public schools supported on a voluntary basis or by parents who want to help support them. And I think you should correct the statement that I said all children do not have the right to learn to read and write. I certainly do believe they all have the right to learn to read and write, and the statement Dilys Jones quoted me as saying is entirely incorrect.

I believe that if the newspapers had taken a stand against government schools and done what Herbert Spencer said years ago, "It is for each to utter that which he sincerely believes to be true, and add his unit of influence to all other units of influence and let the results work themselves out," we wouldn't be in the precarious position we are in today. Newspapers should take a stand and add their units of influence against all forms of socialism.

R. C. HOILES,

Freedom Newspapers, Inc
Santa Ana.

Escalation as Usual

Editor — Here we go again. Remember "we seek no wider war" and what happened step by step. Now "we seek no more than registration" of the people's arms. Hypocrisy unto hypocrisy. Hitler was an amateur.

DE WOLFE HUNTER
Mill Valley.

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Thursday, June 27, 1968



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Limit

Editor — Governor Reagan fears that a lack of restraint among the blacks would set off violence between the races because "There is a limit beyond which any people will be provoked."

I wonder if the possibility has ever occurred to the Governor that the shoe might be on the other foot, that some black people may have been provoked beyond the limit of THEIR endurance.

CAROLYN F. NOBLES

Redwood City.

Doubts About Humphrey

Editor — Vice President Humphrey now seems nearly a certainty for the Democratic nomination. Unqualified supporters of the Administration's Vietnam record can take comfort from this, for Mr. Humphrey has never publicly queried that record; indeed he has repeatedly endorsed it. Those more doubtful about the war policy might be expected to feel less gratified.

But here Mr. Humphrey seems to be the beneficiary of an indulgent presumption: That he "had no choice" but to go along, that he was somehow obliged to swallow any misgivings and stand by his chief unconditionally.

If what is meant is that a whisper of dissent might have risked his chances for Mr. Johnson's support of his own future ambitions, this seems plausible enough. Those who find it an adequate apologia are welcome to it. But one also encounters the suggestion that the Vice President is duty bound to be endlessly compliant, that a hint of independence would have been incongruous and unthinkable.

Nothing in the Constitution sustains this interpretation of the office, nor has custom created a tradition of vice-presidential servility. Throttlebottom probably never disagreed with Wintergreen. But in actual history most Vice

Presidents have maintained some measure of personal independence.

The early cases of Jefferson and Calhoun are notorious. But in more recent times far lesser men have dared to assert themselves. Fairbanks opposed Theodore Roosevelt's Square Deal. Sherman told Taft that he would not act as a presidential "messenger boy." Dawes worked against Coolidge on agricultural policy. Garner's differences with FDR were well known. Even Richard Nixon was rumored to disagree with Eisenhower on certain issues of foreign policy. If any such rumors about Mr. Humphrey have been authenticated, this has escaped my attention.

In short, far from conforming to accepted tradition, Mr. Humphrey has been almost uniquely acquiescent. It would seem wisest, then, for those who support him to accept his word — that he has never harbored doubts about the Vietnam policy in the smallest respect. The other explanations of his performance as Vice President are either ignoble or invalid.

ROBERT G. McCLOSKEY

Cambridge, Mass.

The writer is Professor of Government at Harvard.—Editor

Is America 'Sick'?

Editor — Is America really the sick society? That depends on how you choose to define the term. It is true that we have recently witnessed the brutal assassinations of President Kennedy, Dr. King and Senator Kennedy.

However, though the permissive attitude of our citizens may cause a climate of violence, it has also produced some of the finest thinkers ever, and in addition, it has given rise to a number of successful reforms and a great deal of progress, and I cite the unquestionable development of civil rights as only one example. Granted, civil rights still has a long road to travel, and these assassinations have been deeds of horror. But let

us not label America the sick society, but rather, let us realize that she is a society of power and youth. Like youth, she is prone to be, at times, impetuous and cruel, because she plunges ahead without considering the consequences of her actions. And yet, also like youth, America is strong, determined, and courageous. Like youth, there is no limit to her potential.

PENNY PREEVOLOS,
Age 12.

San Francisco.

Something Missing?

Editor — To what extent do picketing, sitting in, et al., represent forms of expression the young resort to because they were not adequately taught to read and write?

H. R. DOERING

Berkeley.

The Price

Editor — The premature resignation of Chief Justice Warren is part of the price the Republican party is paying for insisting again on Richard Nixon as its standard bearer.

EGON P. WINTER

Santa Cruz.

Election Returns

Editor — The Chronicle's June 5 election returns listed my vote total as lower than the Republican primary winner's in the 11th Congressional District. That error is still causing unfortunate confusion among my supporters and I hope that you will set the record straight as follows:

* Urban Whitaker (D) 56,951

Paul McCloskey (R) 35,660

URBAN WHITAKER

San Bruno.

The above are the final official San Mateo county returns as released Tuesday.—Editor

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Friday, June 28, 1968

