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BEHIND THE TURBULENT NEWSFRONT

by Vant Neff



Who decides on freedom of speech in this country nowadays? The lefty libs are quick to tell Agnew to shut up. But they think it's quite all right for well-known dissidents like Jerry Rubin, Jane Fonda and Abbie Hoffman, some of whom are paid thousands for a speech, to spout whatever kind of revolutionary drivel they choose! Isn't what's fair for one fair for all? Or are the rights guaranteed by our Constitution applicable only to one side?

In case you wonder where your tax dollars go, take a look at the government figures on food handouts for the last fiscal year. Millions of dollars worth of food stamps have been given not only to the truly poor, but also to strikers, who have simply decided to stop work, and to an odd-lot assortment of hippie parasites, radicals and do-nothings who are pleased to have "The Establishment" they profess to despise pay their way in the world, as long as we're suckers enough to do it. Last year, close to twelve million people marched into supermarkets with food stamps—almost double the number of the previous year's recipients. No wonder we're known as the "give-away nation"! Shouldn't there be stricter regulation of our Food Stamp Program, with at least some basic working requirement imposed by the government, before lavishly dispensing food stamps actually paid for with your money, and mine?

There were riots in Hungary, riots in Poland, riots in East Germany, all symptomatic of ordinary individuals' total disenchantment with the "Peoples' Paradise." Riots have also become commonplace in the Western world. But the distinguishing difference is that dissension behind the Iron Curtain is met with rapid and ruthless suppression.

In a nation whose citizens are taxed by federal, state, county and municipal governments, why are unions tax-free? Even when they invest in the stock market and make huge profits, they're still not obliged to pay taxes like the rest of us. American unions are big property holders. They own many things, including banks, insurance companies and hotels, yet they pay no taxes on the profits from these holdings, either. Yet you can be sure that the lowly rank and file union member must pay "taxes" to the union also. Regularly, his

pay envelope is clipped for dues to fill the fat union treasury. In terms of real buying power, his raises, which may seem adequate on paper, seldom go far, because when salaries go up, prices quickly follow. This is what economists call "wage-push inflation." The treadmill is never-ending. But it doesn't seem to bother the unions, who, for reasons unfathomable to me, are exempt from taxes.

For years, it was common practice for the Soviets to grab any book, translate it and reproduce it, completely disregarding the rights of the author or publisher. All the cries of indignation from the rest of the world didn't stop them. The youth in so many Iron Curtain countries acquired their knowledge and education from what they were led to believe were bona fide Russian books, but in reality were only unlawful editions of the American and Western world originals.

Suddenly, the Reds have decided to honor the international copyright laws. Why?

The reasons are best known to themselves. But whatever they are, you may be quite sure that the Russians, first and foremost, will benefit from the situation. That is their habitual method of operation: To twist things to their best interests, and to hell with everybody else.



Quick quiz: Who is responsible for administering our country's labor laws? The answer is the NLRB. Unfortunately, this very limited, politically-appointed, five-man board consistently rules in favor of organized labor—the big unions. A vast majority of its decisions, it seems to me, are contrary to the interests of the man-in-the-street, and also to those of the nation as a whole.

For example, the unions are permitted to slap heavy fines against members who continue on the job when a strike is called, even though it may be a wildcat strike begun at an instant's notice, without the full knowledge of all of the workers. Then again, the union can fine rank and file union members when they exceed their work production quota. In plain English, if the men do too good a job, they may be punished for it!

Unfair situations such as these couldn't possibly exist unless the National Labor Relations Board nodded its tacit approval. In my opinion, it's high time to take labor matters out of the hands of the biased NLRB, and turn them over to impartial federal courts which have no axes to grind, no favors to curry from political bigwigs, and no vested interests to influence their decisions.

Did you realize that the name of the powerful Communist newspaper, Pravda, actually means "Truth"? Imagine the irony of it! Very little that appears in this publication reflects the name at all. What Pravda prints is what the Kremlin wants it to—party-line propaganda—and nothing else. And as everybody knows, the Communists are past masters at distorting the truth to suit their particular whims of the moment. Why any intelligent person, or nation, permits himself to be continually duped by the Reds, I'll never know.

Doesn't it strike anyone as ironic that the Swedes, who have been forerunners in free thinking and free living, are now paying an exorbitantly high price for their so-called freedom? Their disappointment and unhappiness is a matter of record—world-high records of suicide, alcoholism, and you-name-it. Communists now hold the reins of the government, and the whole world knows their concept of "freedom." Swedish workers have been hit by inflation, too. The average man makes only \$4000 a year, yet pays \$1 for a pack of cigarettes, \$5 for a pound of meat, and a 17% sales tax on almost everything.

Moral lesson: Sweden is far from a Utopia. It's a pity that living it up, for the Swedes, has evolved into a pathetic attempt to live down the disastrous results of an overdose of liberalism.

Other excessively permissive nations, take heed!

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

May I call to the attention of your readers an alternative explanation of the "peace symbol" to which you have devoted articles in the issues of February 11 and 18. According to such unrelated and diverse sources as *Changing Times* (Kiplinger; August, 1970, p.22) and *Christian Advocate* (Methodist Church; about 3 months ago) the symbol was designed by one Gerald Holtom of Twickenham, England, for a march in support of nuclear disarmament to be held at Aldermaston on Easter, 1958. It consists of an abstract drawing of two semaphore code letters, N and D (for nuclear disarmament). This code, formed by the position of the arms holding flags, is widely used, e.g., by railroads, boy scouts, and the military, and is illustrated in encyclopedias and

even in Webster's dictionary. N is formed by both arms extended outward toward the ground at 45 degrees (forming the so-called "broken" arms of the "cross"), and D by pointing with one arm to the sky and the other to the ground.

If the above data is historically correct, then any similarity between the "peace symbol" and a "crow's foot," a witch's foot, "upside down Nazi symbols, upside down "broken"

crosses, and who-knows - what else, would be accidental and irrelevant. And one can only wonder why excerpts from "American Opinion Magazine" and the "Franklin Press" do not contain this data.

With good wishes to your readers in Yancey, I am
 Sincerely yours,
 Lloyd R. Bailey
 Ass't Professor in Old Testament.

Special Church Service Set

The Middle Fork Independent Baptist Church invites the public to attend a special service at the Middle Fork Independent Baptist Church, located 4 miles North of Mars Hill on

the Burnsville Highway, on Sunday night, February 28th at 7:30 p.m.

Featured in this special service will be the West Asheville Gospel Singers with Perry Crane.

SENATOR
SAM ERVIN
 ☆ SAYS ☆

WASHINGTON - - Several days ago, I introduced a bill to require trials of Federal criminal suspects within 60 days. The measure, almost identical to the one which I introduced at the last Congress, has 24 cosponsors.

The "speedy trial" bill seeks anew to breathe life into the Sixth Amendment guarantee by providing for expeditious Federal trials. Also, it sets an exemplary pattern for the States to consider, and is an appropriate means of dealing with crime that is talked of so much these days.

It is a sad commentary on criminal justice in our land that more than half of the inmates in city and country jails are imprisoned without having been convicted of a crime. That startling fact came out a few weeks ago when the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration sought to determine the present jail population of our country.

Last year there was a storm of controversy over an effort to enact preventive detention legislation to place allegedly "dangerous" defendants in prison without trial by denying them their constitutional right to reasonable bail. I base my objections to preventive detention primarily on constitutional grounds, but also oppose it because it seems to me that preventive detention merely papers over the decay within our court system and leads to further unnecessary delay in seeking crime solutions.

I have always felt that the accused and the victim of a crime are both entitled to a speedy trial. Recently, I have been heartened by the commitment of Chief Justice Warren Burger to the principle sought to be attained in my bill. In declaring that criminal trials within 60 days would sharply reduce the crime rate and that both the accused and the public have a fundamental right to speedy trial, the Chief Justice plainly enunciated two consummate truths which neither the legislature nor the judiciary can ignore any longer.

A further favorable sign in the consideration of the "speedy trial" bill is the concern reflected by the Federal judiciary to set its own house in order and the recent promulgation of trial rules by the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit Appeals Court. The Second Circuit rules require the U. S. Attorney to be ready for trial of an unconvicted, detained defendant within 90 days of detention. If not, unless exceptional circumstances appear, the defendant is to be released. These rules also require the government to be ready for trial in all cases within six months from the date of arrest, service of summons, detention, or filing of a complaint or a formal charge, whichever is earliest.

These concerns about expediting justice in the courts show that the time for legislative action is at hand. Public confidence in our courts must be restored. Congress can do much in this area by enacting the bill which I have introduced.

Basically, my bill would require each Federal district court to establish its own plan for trials within 60 days of indictment or information. It would also provide that the executive and judicial branches must review their resources and their requirements for an efficient criminal justice system and present them to Congress.

Any Federal district could then submit its special problems to the Congress, and the bill, if enacted, would take into account these special conditions by a phased-in transition to the new system in four stages. The bill also goes into the bail system, by authorizing the establishment of "pre-trial service agencies" in five selected Federal districts to supervise, control, and make bail recommendations.

The Constitutional Rights Subcommittee will begin hearings on the new bill soon.