

'The Sky's the Limit, Gentlemen!'



EDITORIALS

Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinion Of One Man— And He May Be Wrong.

Is There A Way?

Many of us who are concerned with the image of our nation in the eyes of the world are asking; Is There A Way to regain the world esteem we held in 1945?

Our nation, goodness knows, is trying hard, but with small success to win friends in this battle for the minds of men. Where have we failed? What are we leaving undone that ought to be done? What are we doing that ought not to be done?

Each of us who helps foot the bill of this effort is eligible to suggest answers to some, or to all of these most basic questions.

We feel There Is A Way.

Our failure has been in permitting the Soviets to steal for themselves the role of the revolutionary. The Russians have nothing new. State ownership is as old as history—even older. Every form of dictatorship from the first tribal club-wielder up to and including our current crop of table thumpers has "known what was best

for his people."

We have tried to convey this idea to the "undecided nations" but we have relied upon the wrong tools. Firstly, so very few of the people in either the decided or undecided nations of the world really have any intelligent appreciation of what free speech or free press really mean.

When they see a headline or hear a broadcast they are not impressed. Goebbels reduced both these media to their lowest common levels.

If our country were to select those basic nations with whom we most pressing need to mend public relations, and disregard up to a point these tribal fiefdoms that pop up overnight, that might be a basic first step toward improving the international image of Uncle Sam.

Armed with such a decision then those who are charged with the job could really move forward with greater chance of success, using more specialized tools that have not been discredited or worn out.

The Russian Problem

Hardly an issue of newspaper or magazine rolls off the press without some learned thesis on "The Russian Problem." One more perhaps will not hurt, and could possibly help.

When the rags were torn from the scarecrows that Hitler and Mussolini had so badly frightened the world with it came as no surprise to many that it takes far more than "running the trains on time" to keep a government together.

Whether a dictatorship is from the political left or right there is little difference. Under Stalin or Hitler there was the constant treachery, the palace planning that is inevitably created when there is no king to replace the king, and no political process by which the new leader is systematically elected.

Today as the free world ruptures it ulcers over the table thumping barnyard manners of Khrushchev there is, really, nothing new under the political sun.

Power struggles have been going on since before governments were invented, and

conceivably, may be going on after governments have ended.

The Russians play a dangerous international game that compares in many respects to "Russian Roulette." They have one round loaded in their arsenal—the ballistic missile, or so they claim. But there are blanks in every other chamber of their weaponry. Food, for instance, is as basic a requisite to war as guns.

Politically how secure are the Russians in, say Poland, Hungary, East Germany? No more secure than the Germans were in France, Poland and Hungary. Perhaps the Soviets are as well off as the United States in Korea, or Japan, or West Germany.

Economically? We hear a lot about how near to bankruptcy our nation is, but are we talking about dollars or resources? The Soviets cannot buy the gadgetry of outer space, nor foot the bill for countless divisions of occupying troops without sapping their resources more than ours.

The Russian Problem is psychic, not physical.

Unrealistic Legalisms

For something like 20 years the United States experimented with a legalism that was loosely known as "Prohibition". The net result of this statutory ban on alcoholic beverages was 1. to deprive the government and legitimate channels of industry of billions of dollars of income, 2. to debase law enforcement worse than at any time since men began wearing badges, 3. to create an arrogant and wealthy class of criminals who supplied to the public what the law forbid, but what the public demanded.

The single purpose of the prohibition effort—to stop the drinking of alcoholic beverages—was never achieved since constitutional powers cannot repeal the laws of chemistry.

In exactly the same sense the laws which we presently suffer on gambling are unworkable since the psychic urge to gamble is almost as immutable as the law of fermentation.

Whether a man is on his knees in a floating crap game, begging for "an eight, the hard-way", or sitting in a air-conditioned salon watching a ticker tape his impulse is identical and basic. He is seeking profit.

The parallel between prohibition and anti-gambling laws is striking: 1. Gambling laws have deprived the government and legitimate channels of commerce of billions of dollars, 2. They have debased law enforcement in many areas almost to the low levels of the bath tub gin era, 3. they have created—or perhaps perpetuated a wealthy class of criminals, who supply the public, once more, with that which is forbidden by law but demanded by human nature.

The corruption of college athletes, the depravity of college professors in abetting television producers who were supposedly betting one's man intelligence against another, the punks selling numbers racket tickets around schools are moral sores on society that are a direct result of trying to do by statute the impossible chore of renovating human nature.

Paradoxically, that particular sport that was at one time considered the most corrupt—horse racing—today is apparently the "cleanest" sport in the nation, and directly because it operates under the law, rather than under the counter.

The difference between a church supper, bingo party and a national lottery is only in degree; assuredly not in morality.

When laws are passed that attempt to re-make mankind into any special moral pattern, happily, they are foredoomed. Men will not conform; at least free men will not, and there is considerable evidence to support the premise that even men who are not so free are not identical.

Left-handed spitting on the state constitution seems to be the fashion with the General Assembly, which cannot raise its pay but has gotten around that legal impediment by raising its expense allowances each time it is convened. Morality would be better served by offering a constitutional amendment that would raise the legislative pay to a level more in keeping with the importance of the job than the present \$1800 per biennium.

The President's wife, who was a photographer, before matrimony, must shrivel at the camera angles she is being murdered with now that she is the world's most photographed woman. Nobody, but nobody is pretty from every angle. What Price Glory?

Needed repeating: These are Cubans that Castro is trying to swap for tractors.

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PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

Periodically the public is exposed to explosions at the top level about the need for one kind or another of censorship. At present the television industry is under attack because it spends a large share of its energies turning out blood and thunder, which is consumed by the small fry. Remember when Orson Welles was about to get radio canned with his shocking "Men from Mars" broadcast? Then it was radio under fire.

Before radio it was novels—the old pulp magazines that have now largely passed away because people are reading best sellers that are twice as gory and 10 times as sexy—but have the flavor of art tacked to them. Smut is smut either on the best-seller list or between the lurid covers of a magazine counter.

Surveys of juvenile delinquents have been made to indicate that the vast majority have been led down the primrose path from seeing Peter Gunn, Paladin and Gunsmoke. Which, for my money, is pure hogwash. Nobody has, and nobody will compile statistics to discover how many wild youths have gotten their kicks from watching, rather than acting in blood-and-thunder episodes.

I've watched a lot of these TV thrillers that are supposed to be ruining our children, I listened to a lot of the old radio dramas that were called "crime schools," and I read thousands of the old pulp stories that were blamed for juvenile delinquency back in the twenties and thirties.

Juvenile delinquency is not caused by TV, radio, books, comic strips, failure of the church, weakness of the schools. Juvenile delinquency is caused by delinquent parents. Parents who have failed to exert their authority; to maintain discipline in the home.

Children who do not respect the authority of their parents will have no respect for any other authority. This is as sure as taxation. Some children require different disciplinary measures than others. One child needs little more than a word, another may need a lecture, another may have to have his bottom warmed. In fact, there are very few children who somewhere along the line do not need a solid spanking to let them know exactly who the boss is.

These do-gooders who want to censor TV, are the same types that sign petitions and besiege judges when some delinquent brat gets into trouble and is standing before the courts. Certainty of detection and certainty of punishment are the most positive methods to curb either juvenile or adult delinquency.

When society covers up for and makes excuses for and puts the blame for wrongdoing on everybody except the actual wrong-doer a pretty sorry mess is about to be made of that same society.

Every school child is required to study MacBeth, but very few school children have grown up with a passion to murder their ruler. David is a great hero of the Bible, who slew a giant, with his sling and stole the wife of a faithful lieutenant after he had sent that faithful lieutenant to certain death in battle. Not too many of our children who have read the story of David have tried to imitate his bravery or his chicanery.

Censorship in our society must remain an individual act. Parents who are concerned about the TV shows, movies or books their children see have the basic duty of checking up and doing their own censorship. Passing the buck to legislative bodies, courts, panels of censors, or to even the noblest of do-good organizations is dangerous to every kind of freedom that we cherish.