

# EDITORIALS

## CHILDREN WARNED OF STRANGERS

Police, hoping to alert youngsters to the danger which is involved in trusting strangers, recently began distributing 450,000 illustrated pamphlets to Maryland school children. The pamphlets warned them not to do many things, each warning being accompanied by a picture.

Among other things, the pamphlets advised the children not to take rides from persons they did not know; not to take money, candy or treats from strangers; not to accompany strangers when they need directions; and not to go with strangers who offered them a job with pay. In addition, the pamphlet warned the children not to play alone in alleys, or deserted buildings; not to let strangers touch them; and to take a friend along when they went to the playgrounds, movies, or stores.

This latter bit of advice is certainly all-inclusive. While many of us find it hard to believe that all these precautions are necessary, the police in Maryland evidently have concluded that they are. It is rather disappointing to realize that children should not go alone to playgrounds, movies and stores, for instance.

Certainly there is something wrong in a society where children have no more freedom from danger than is indicated by the rules passed out to school children in the State of Maryland. In addition, the pamphlet says these rules should also be followed by adults. Our comment would be that the rules apply to a greater extent in the larger cities. The smaller the town, or community, the less the chances are that children will not be safe violating the rules quoted above. Happily, in many of the smaller communities of America today, the natural friendliness which was typical of early America still prevails.

## THE BEST SELLERS

We sometimes wonder what the average reader of best-seller novels expects to gain by reading the trash put out year after year. We would like to remind our readers that, to be balanced, one must read something other than the usual trash, and sex, which is currently being peddled at a record rate.

We have also noticed that, in addition to the vulgarity which characterizes so many best-sellers and which, no doubt, sells the books, many of them contain subtle propaganda. The average sensation-seeker, who appreciates a book in proportion to its vulgarity, seldom realizes that propaganda might be included in today's novels.

It is each citizen's duty to try to understand the motivation behind books he reads, movies he sees, and behind other entertainment sources. For instance, movie stars can glamorize cocktails, smoking and other things by portraying them as glamorous, normal ways of life. While the average American is more individualistic than the citizen of any other country, he is, nevertheless, often duped by the mass effect of such propaganda. He is convinced that this or that is the thing to do and he conforms and follows the examples he has read of, or seen on the screen.

Man's intelligence can be pretty accurately measured by what he reads. Every individual should realize that when he becomes satisfied with his knowledge and stops educating himself, he is sure to go backward intellectually from that point on. It should also be kept in mind that only the intelligent are wise enough to continue to seek knowledge and education.

With this in mind, we suggest that those who gobble up all the spicy novels of the day make it a rule to read at least one factual, or mentally-stimulating book, for each three love novels. Anyone who will follow such a resolution will improve his mind, eventually learn to enjoy non-fiction and gain for himself at least a chance of being weaned away from trash.

## THOUGHT FOR TODAY

All wish to know, but none want to pay the price.  
—Juvenal

## The Plattsmouth Journal

Official County and City Paper

ESTABLISHED IN 1861  
Twice Winner Ak-Sar-Ben Plaques for "OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE" 1949 — 1951  
Presented Nebraska Press Association "GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD" in 1951  
(Ranked Second in Cities Over 1000 Population) Published Semi-Weekly, Mondays and Thursdays, at 410 Main Street, Plattsmouth, Cass County, Nebr.  
RONALD R. FURSE, Publisher  
HARRY J. CANE, Editor  
FRANK H. SMITH, News Reporter  
ALBERT E. BALK, Advertising Mgr.  
SOPHIA M. WOLVER, Society Editor



Entered at the Post Office at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, as second class mail matter in accordance with the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$3.50 per year in Cass and adjoining counties, \$4.00 per year elsewhere, in advance, by mail outside the city of Plattsmouth. By carrier in Plattsmouth, 20 cents for two weeks.

## Furse's Fresh Flashes

The fellow who remembers what he learned at his mother's knee was probably bent over it at the time.

Even after changing its name to "Virus infection" doctors still can't cure the common cold.

One reason we worry so much about the future is that we expect to spend the rest of our life in it.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, cut quite a figure here the other day. She sat down on a broken bottle.

An altar is a place where a bachelor loses control of himself.

Right now the best way to keep up with the Joneses is to take it easy for awhile and you'll meet them coming back.

The cost of living is always a problem; with inflation, you worry about the cost, and with deflation you worry about the living.

If you are married you have grounds for divorce.

A Plattsmouth woman tells us she likes strong silent men—they're such good listeners.

## Down Memory Lane

### 20 YEARS AGO

Miss Loren Hatchett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Hatchett, and Leonard W. Lutz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lutz, were united in marriage March 12 at the First Christian church. . . . County Sheriff Homer Sylvester has declared a moratorium for motor vehicle owners for one month to enable vehicle owners to purchase new license plates at the lower rate as approved in a recent law. . . . A pig born recently on the H. L. Gayer farm has two sets of ears, one inside the other. . . . George Adams, Anna May Sandin and Greth Garnett were first place winners in the declamatory contest held here. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Elliott are the parents of a daughter. . . . Mrs. A. J. Trilety has been elected president of the Women's Auxiliary society of the Presbyterian church. Miss Florence Terryberry is first vice president and Mrs. Luke Wiles is second vice president.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Corbin Davis and Bob Marshall have been elected co-captains of the Kemper Military school basketball team. . . . Pvt. Gerald Petre and Pvt. Ray F. Hamilton have completed Air Force courses at Gulfport Field, Miss. . . . Coach and Mrs. Merle Stewart are the parents of a son born March 13. . . . Mrs. William Woolcott and Mrs. E. G. Shellenbarger have been named delegates to the district Woman's club meeting to be held at Tecumseh. Alternates are Mrs. W. L. Heinrich and Mrs. L. S. Devore. . . . Mrs. Mary Rea has been installed as Grand Regent of the Catholic Daughters of America at Plattsmouth. Mrs. Agnes Walling is vice regent.

## The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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DREW PEARSON SAYS: DEFENSE CHIEF REVERSES SELF ON BUDGET CUTS; 40-PAGE CATALOG COSTS \$87,000,000; SERVICES SABOTAGE \$4,000,000,000 SAVING EFFORT.

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson went into a complete, though secret reverse last week. After telling a senate committee he could make no real cuts in the defense budget, he ordered the navy to cut by two billions, the air force by two billions, and the army by a quarter billion.

Reason for the reversal was a determined desire on the part of Budget Director Joe Dodge to chop expenses, plus realization that in the armed forces there's the greatest fat.

Here is some news which may help Dodge and Wilson.

Over a year ago—Feb. 4, 1952—this column reported in detail how the army, navy, air force overlapped, duplicated, and competed with each other in buying supplies. In such a relatively simple item as carpenter's squares, for instance, a carpenter's square for the quartermaster corps cost 65 cents, for the navy \$2, for the army \$1.90, for the signal corps \$2.10, for the army engineers \$1.48, for the air force \$1.40.

Furthermore, even within the army itself, there is no standardization of carpenter's squares, so that the army catalog "contained six separate specifications for squares—the signal corps', ordnance's, transportation's, engineers', chemical warfare's, and quartermaster corps'. On top of this, air force has to have a seventh

## Ticklers

By George



"This new man is taking no chances!"

number, and the bare cost of re-printing army catalogs to add the air force's 7th number is about \$1,500,000.

Last year also, a subcommittee spearheaded by Congressman Carl Vinson of Georgia and Eddie Herbert of Louisiana performed extensive research on armed services duplication, finally passed a law requiring the army, navy, air force to compile one catalog from which they all would order instead of competing against each other through separate catalogs.

That law was passed on July 1, 1952. Since then, the defense department has had 300 people working full time in Washington, plus 3,000 people working part time in the field to compile a joint armed services catalog. Finally, after spending \$87,000,000, they have produced the first edition—a catalog on "subsistence" or food—length, 40 pages!

In contrast, the complete purchasing catalogs of the army, navy, air force fill one room. So, at the rate of \$87,000,000 for 40 pages, it will take billions to complete the entire catalog.

As a result of this dilly-dallying, Acting Defense Secretary William Foster in the Truman administration sent a confidential memo to his Republican successor on the day before Eisenhower took over. This column has obtained a copy of the confidential memo, which reads:

"You will recall that I touched briefly on the subject of the cataloging and standardization program and my concern as to its effectiveness. Attached is a copy of my memo to Mr. Sheridan, defense management staff, recommending action I believe to be appropriate. . . ."

Foster enclosed not only his recommendation for the use of outside civilian experts to cut army-navy duplication, but he also enclosed an amazing memo from Edward J. Sheridan, in which the defense management director admitted complete failure by the armed forces to get together on a joint, standardized buying program.

According to the confidential memo, the 40-page catalog for the purchase of food, referred to above, "does not include information on each item needed for supply operations such as size, weight, cubage. . . . This means that the subsistence catalog which covers the simplest catalog of items existing in the military supply system cannot be used in supply operations."

In other words, after spending \$87,000,000 of the taxpayers' money and eight months time, even the meagre 40 pages of standardized cataloging aren't worth using.

"It would appear," continues the confidential memo, "that if this practice is followed for the remaining 73 groups of items to be cataloged, the intent of the congress will not be met and that a single cataloging system will not be developed."

"Further the subsistence catalog, first published in November 1952, is already at the printer for revision and inclusion of 300 additional items"—which the boys forgot.

"One million news items have entered the supply system since the Korean war started," the memo continued, "and represent a tremendous backlog of work. . . . The rate of new items coming into the system is greater than the rate of cataloging," confesses Mr. Sheridan. "This means that we have undoubtedly spent needless time, money, and effort in cataloging items which were obsolete. . . ."

When congress passed the law for standardized buying it was estimated that the elimination of competing army-navy warehouses, duplicate warehousing personnel, duplicate books, cataloging, etc., would save the taxpayers four billions. Instead it has cost \$87,000,000 extra. Four billions is just about the amount Budget Director Dodge has ordered Secretary Wilson to prune. This may be one way to do it.

Note—The navy has ordered 14,500 copies of the 40-page new catalog on food, the army only 50 copies, the air force none; which indicates that the latter two don't intend to use the new catalog but will go their own way.

Mail Bag  
A. N. Washington — Attorney General Brownell used a justice

department truck license No. 4764 to move his personal effects from the Lee House to his new home. However, he explains that he left the arrangements to someone else, and found at the last minute they had sent a government truck. It being Washington's birthday he could not get a private truck, so paid the government for the use of its truck, also for the driver's time of State Bedell Smith informs me that I was in error in reporting that John Foster Dulles suspended Alfred H. Morton, head of the Voice of America in New York during the McCarthy investigation, only to reinstate him next day. General Smith says that he, not Dulles, suspended Morton. Glad to make this correction. How about if Homer Smith, a close friend of Anna Rosenberg, who knew how she was crucified by McCarthy and who knows McCarthy's unfair methods, can get as jittery as he showed himself in the morton incident, then the state department is really going to pieces. . . . National Council of Churches, New York — Congressman Vede who wants to probe the churches was elected with the heavy financial support of the gambling and liquor fraternity around Peoria, considered one of the worst crime spots between New Orleans and Chicago. . . . Navy Yard Worker, Philadelphia — The Brazilian midshipman who brought radios, TV sets, and electric fans aboard the training ship Duque De Caxias purchased them in Philadelphia stores. There is nothing illegal about taking these articles out of the U. S. A.

**Tax Emancipation**  
With taxpayers sweating out the income-tax deadline today, the bureau of internal revenue received the following fearful take-off on the Gettysburg address:

"One score and seventeen years ago our fathers brought forth upon this nation a new tax, conceived in desperation and dedicated to the proposition that all men are fair game. . . ."

"Now we are engaged in a great mass of calculations, testing whether that taxpayer or any taxpayer so confused and so impoverished can long endure. We are met on Form 1040. We have come to dedicate a large portion of our income to a final resting place with those men who here spend their lives that they may spend our money. It is altogether anguish and torture that we should do this, but in a legal sense we cannot evade, we cannot cheat, we cannot under-estimate this tax. The collectors, clever and sly, who computed here have gone far beyond our power to add and subtract. Our creditors will little nor long remember what we pay here but the bureau of internal revenue can never forget what we report here.

"It is for us taxpayers rather to be devoted here to the tax return which the government has thus far so nobly spent. It is that from these vanished dollars we have increased devotion to the few remaining, that we here highly resolve that next year will not find us in a higher income bracket. . . ."

"That this taxpayer, underpaid, shall figure out more deductions and that taxation of the people, by congress, and for government shall not cause our solvency to perish from the earth."

**FATHER DRAFT**  
Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Director of the Selective Service Board, announces that it might be necessary to draft fathers in eight to fourteen months to maintain the armed forces' strength of 3,600,000 men. He also decries the "war" which is also going on in the minds of the nation because faced with a fight for survival.

Nebraska's state record white bass of 4 pounds 4 ounces was caught by Miss Barbara L. Mombach of Grand Island last summer in McConaughy reservoir.

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## Legislative SIDELIGHTS..

by BERNIE CAMP  
Information Director  
Nebraska Farm Bureau  
Federation

The problems faced by the Nebraska legislature this session are basically problems which have been deferred from session to session since the close of World War II because often their solution has been unpleasant for someone to face.

Few citizens have shown a willingness to help the legislature seek and find answers. Rather, many who have thought of themselves as leaders thought have preferred to defend the status quo because they or some interest they represented might be inconvenienced by being called on to carry a share of the load in the event of change.

Too often these leaders have blamed the legislature for the failure to find solutions to the problems of roads, schools and taxation, when actually the blame for failure to solve these problems is closer home. The legislature is a convenient "whipping boy" because most Nebraskans have not wanted to assume responsibility for their own shortcomings.

The legislature is expected to reflect the feelings of the people represented by the 43 men who make up its membership. The legislature has not had much understanding or appreciation of state problems to reflect because citizens themselves have lacked the courage to boldly face up to the problems of the state, expecting that the men they send to the legislature will acquire courage and boldness from some mysterious source.

No one really quarrels with the basic fact that the answer to most of the problems of the state government is financial. The disagreement comes over means and methods and sources.

The school and road problems of Nebraska will not be adequately solved until the basic tax problems of the state are solved. The basic tax problem will not be solved until Nebraskans generally agree that regardless of where it pinches the problem will be faced and resolved realistically and fairly.

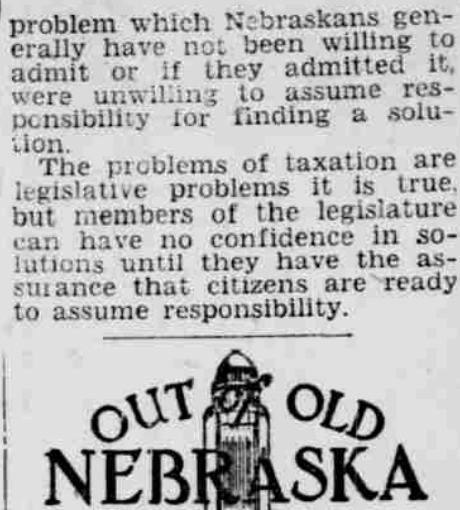
Such an attitude on the part of citizens requires recognition that Constitutional changes may be necessary as well as changes in the basic thinking of many citizens and groups of the state, and particularly on the part of those who think of themselves as leaders.

First among the needs would appear to be a decision as to the place of the property tax in financing government. When we as Nebraskans begin to examine the fairness of a tax system that puts the burden upon property and the use of property, we are beginning to get at the roots of the problem. When we begin to think in terms of taking the state out of the property tax field completely, leaving that as a source of revenue for local subdivisions of government, we are taking a realistic approach. Nebraska will not have equality of taxation until the citizenry of the state begin to ask questions about the present system and determine to seek answers.

It might be well to acquire a little of the philosophy of "rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's." Specifically, as only one example, in the case of highway revenues, steps might be taken to assure that the \$60 million a year paid by highway users is used for highway improvement and maintenance and not diverted in substantial measure to other subdivisions of government. Highway users are, however, considered "fair game" for the raids of other divisions of government since their inception. Public officials by and large have thought of the automobile in terms of a luxury and have sought to make it bear tax loads at luxury rates. Such thinking is erroneous; and highway users, already bearing a disproportionate tax load, should not be expected to go on assuming new gasoline taxes and license fees while great amounts of their current tax payments are diverted to uses other than road construction and maintenance.

School district reorganization becomes increasingly apparent as an avenue for eliminating at least part of the school finance problem. There are, however, other school problems which have been passed along from year to year or ignored. As an example, Nebraska is faced with the problem of financing a retirement system for its teachers, an obligation assumed by the state in 1945, but which has not yet been put upon a funded basis, so that in a period of eight years, the state has fallen almost 15 million dollars behind in meeting its obligations to that program. The state's share of that obligation increases each year action is delayed.

The solution of these and other problems is bound closely because road and school problems are part of a basic tax



by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The overland freighting business, by which goods of all sorts were carried in wagons from the Missouri River steamboat landings to military posts out on the plains and mining camps in the mountains, was an important factor in the economy of Nebraska territory. This was particularly true in the grim days following the Panic of 1857.

Big freighting firms like Russell, Majors and Waddell bought thousands of head of stock and great quantities of corn, thus providing a market for hard-pressed Nebraska farmers. In addition to selling to the big firms, many farmers and small business men went into freighting for themselves. An early historian of Nebraska reported that almost every person who could muster a vehicle went into the freighting business, with equipment ranging from one to three teams of six or eight yoke teams down to a one-mule cart.

It's in these small operations that you can see America's enterprising frontiersmen at their best. Many of these small operators were businessmen of imagination who were willing to take a chance and work hard to make it pay out and often they became big operators in the course of a few years.

Somebody seemed willing to take a flyer with almost any kind of cargo, spurred on by the knowledge that there was a heavy demand for almost all types of goods in the mining camps and that the miners — when they had the money — were willing to pay premium prices.

For example, in 1865 John Reed & Co., pioneer Nebraska City druggists, sent a wagon load of coal oil to Denver. They sold the oil for \$7.00 a gallon and realized a net profit of \$500 on the trip.

During the winter months hardy souls would freight perishables out to the mines. Whole wagon loads of eggs packed in oats went west from the Missouri River towns. At the mines, the eggs would bring a dollar a dozen. Similarly, many farmers hauled butter, dressed hogs, sausages and lard to the mountains during the winter months when work was slack at home.

Another unusual cargo was a wagon load of apples hauled from eastern Nebraska to Denver. They brought \$20 a bushel. At another time a couple of Germans who could not speak English hauled a wagon load of fresh oysters westward from Omaha. They filled their wagon with cans of oysters, then poured water into the wagon bed, letting the whole freeze into a solid lump. West of Julesburg they were encountered selling oysters at \$10 a gallon.

Again, in 1863 an enterprising man drove a flock of 500 turkeys across the plains to Denver. They took a wagon load of shelled corn along for feed, but the turkeys subsisted mainly on grasshoppers along the way.

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## CRIPPLED CHILDREN



YOUR HELP!

20th Annual  
Easter Seal  
Appeal  
March 5 - April 5

## Labor Supply and Plattsmouth Daily In Past Month

In line with seasonal the labor supply moved up from last month in the Nebraska City-Falls City-Plattsmouth area, according to Glenn area manager from Nebraska.

Increases were recorded at Ottumwa, Richardson and Jewett counties with slight declines in Cass and Nemaha counties. Labor supply for Cass county listed at 77 men and 26 women.

Some upturn in labor demand should occur in the next 30 days with construction work, according to Noble.

Plattsmouth activity, employment service reports are now carried on with a revised schedule of visits. Applications for work, two sons were sent to job openings and two jobs were filled. Payers placed orders for workers. In February, 18 facts were made with the employment service at Plattsmouth.

Nebraska's rabbit season opens again on April 1 and continues through the remainder of the year.

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