

Outlandish Demands Of Labor Are Folly

Seems to us that the relations between industry and labor would be improved mightily if the labor leaders ceased to demand so many outlandish financial and working conditions in their first contacts for contract renewals.

Obviously, some of them are impossible of fulfillment, and the labor folks really don't expect to get them. Yet merely making such demands has, we believe, a damaging psychological impact upon the entire nation.

It engenders continued friction between labor and industry; it discloses the foggy thinking in making such inflationary overtures; it also sort of "brain-washes" millions into thinking that the American economy can support ever-increasing non-productive paid hours of its workers—even though already our economy is confronted with the competition of much imported goods that sell for less than those made in the U.S.A.

To be sure, labor leaders always ask for more than they expect to get—but to ask for "pie-in-the-sky" is utter folly. It pays no compliment to the otherwise more practical and possible-to-win demands that capable labor leaders can, and have, and should make.

Whittling Unknown To Today's Youth

They were thinking about boyhood, these two fellows in their mid-40's, and one of them said: "Remember how kids used to get a couple of pieces of rib bone, or maybe wood, and hold them in their fingers and make a clacking noise? I don't see those around anymore; I wonder if kids do that these days."

Whereupon his companion retorted, with bruised cynicism, "Probably what they do now is sit around listening to a recording of boys doing that."

Bruised cynicism or not, that has an acid hint of truth in it. This is the age of the vicarious thrill. Youngsters do a lot of adventuring via television and movies and records. They learn a lot that way—but they also miss a lot that used to be most first hand to boys and girls a generation ago.

WHOEVER SEES A BOY whittling anymore? Whittling used to be a favorite time-passer for boys, and most of them would sooner have ventured forth without shoes than without a pocket knife. Are we going to come to a time when, instead of knowing the satisfaction of whittling, boys will see movies of whittlers in action?

And will there be records of boys playing a comb-and-paper, or doing a bit of soulful knock-whistling, or making the shrill noise that a grass blade makes when properly held and blown? Perhaps not. Perhaps that aforementioned bruised cynicism has gained the upper hand. But has anyone, lately, seen a boy clacking a carefully smoothed pair of rib bones? Neither have we.

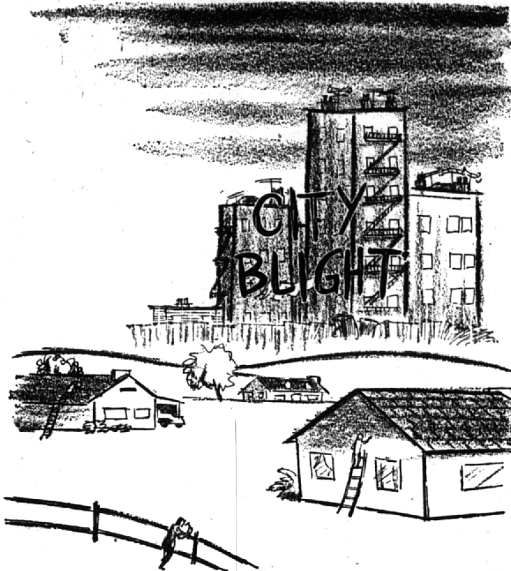
Space Satellites See All—Show All

The launching of two new American satellites is one more step in the direction of freer world communication and less secrecy behind the Iron Curtain. Tirois III carries television cameras to report the weather, and will be especially helpful in spotting hurricanes and other large-scale weather phenomena. Midas III carries secret apparatus which can detect and report missile firings.

Thus Russia's refusal to agree to true international inspection cannot withstand the onslaught of the space age. Russia's Sputnik began it, and there are possibilities yet to be opened up. These include world-wide television, which will make it increasingly awkward for the Soviet Union to remain isolated from the rest of the world.

Educational and cultural exchanges have already broken down much of the old isolation. Political and economic considerations have opened peepholes in the Iron Curtain. Now the onslaught on space is likely to swing the barriers wide open. This may enable the Soviets to see further into our own weaknesses. But if we have faith in our way of life and the courage to live up to our ideals, we should eventually reap the benefits of such a marvelous broadening of man's horizons.

A Stitch in Time



Editorial Page

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press
Is Democracy's First Line of Defense

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From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

It is good that our City Commission is considering a rounded-out recreational program to be related to the use of most of the 66 acres of city-owned land adjacent to the former sewage disposal plant fronting Cranbrook Rd., west of Seaholm high school. This acreage was acquired during the 1930's for practically nothing; it was distressed tax delinquent property which Birmingham obtained merely by paying a comparatively small sum to the State, county and township for owed taxes. Provision for all ages of our citizens would be a good objective to target, in the opinion of many who have given thought to the use of this acreage. A portion of it, recently, consisting of the former sewage treatment plant, has been turned over to the Bloomfield Art Association as an art center.

Failure of hundreds of thousands of Michigan voters to ballot for delegates to the forthcoming Michigan Constitutional Revision Convention bespeaks little good for the defense of self-government in this State. It is proof that too many adults are too little interested in responding to the duties and responsibilities of citizenship. It is proof, too, often, that what you have not had to work and struggle for, you may not fully appreciate. Such citizen apathy is just what the enemies of liberty and freedom want. Did you vote for a delegate July 25?

President Kennedy's Secretary of Commerce Luther H. Hodges has created an Advertising Committee, to investigate and expose any fraudulent or half-truths or misleading statements used by companies to advertise their goods and/or services. That's a good idea—and we suggest that some official committee also be appointed to investigate the fraudulent or half-truth or mis-leading statements used by politicians and political parties to win votes.

We join with our hundred eighty million Americans in the hope that the recent aches and pains that afflicted President Kennedy will never return to him—and that he may discard the use of those crutches forever. Certainly any President

of the United States deserves to enjoy healthy mental and physical powers in order to meet the tremendous problems of his office.

President Kennedy's recent European trip contained some pleasantness, perhaps in association with France's Charles de Gaulle and Britain's McMillan. But his two days with Russia's Khrushchev was somberly unpleasant—yet here's hope it did convince our Chief Executive that the work of the Soviet isn't worth a lead nickel . . . and that the Soviet will use any evil device to annihilate freedom on this earth. Let's hope that Kennedy will never become as glib in dealing with the Soviet as were FDR and HST.

Within the next generation Bloomfield township will require 11 more public schools than it now has, due to student population increase, the Township's Planning Commission has announced. Chairman Edward A. Proctor last week said that a series of meetings will be held with citizens in September, to study a master plan and zoning report now soon to be completed.

Are you residents of Birmingham having any difficulty getting city trucks to pick up your garbage and various accumulations of rubbish? If you are, don't hesitate to inform City Manager Richard Gare. Above all things, he wants our community to present the picture of wholesome cleanliness to the whole world.

The U.S. is busy these days trying to put satellites in orbit—and trying to keep Cuba from becoming a satellite in a Soviet orbit.

The late Henry L. Mencken, famed Baltimore newspaper editor, once wrote: "Every little squirt thinks he is a fountain of wisdom."

Ladies, you should not believe such a report as: "A certain radio station phoned 1,000 men, asking them to whom they were listening. Eighty per cent said their wives."

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Should Abstract Art Be Upsetting?

To the Editor:

One wonders in what remote area of the world S. Olshanka spent the 15 years of her life while away from Birmingham to be so startled and disappointed by the fact that there was so much contemporary art displayed during the Art Festival in June.

It seems strange that after 50 years, abstract art should be so upsetting.

Most of the people with whom I came in contact thought that the paintings in the windows were of a very high caliber and that there was very little provincialism in the over-all picture.

WHY NOT stop fighting this powerful world-wide movement? It is as much a part of today as our streamlined jets, automobiles, refrigerators, etc., none of which resembles its predecessors.

I drew S. Olshanka's attention to "Time" of June 30 in which color pictures in the Art section illustrate how abstract so-called "modern" art immensurably to the interest and beauty of the rooms in the new Chase Manhattan Bank, which to quote Time is "The most important modern office museum ever built."

THESE paintings, incidentally, were chosen after much thought by a group of top-flight art-minded people including the director of

the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. As for the men who presumably have greatly influenced contemporary paintings, S. Olshanka infers by her grouping that they were all Russian born, whereas Kandinski was the only one to be killed in Russia to live in France. The others were in the order of her naming, Spanish, American, French, and Spanish.

IS IT SO strange that the Spanish one, Picasso, should occasionally paint with tongue in cheek, when the whole world waits to pay thousands of dollars for anything that he creates?

This does not alter the fact that he is a great painter and a great innovator.

As for his Communist slant, I doubt that anyone could be converted to Communism by looking at a painting.

I, TOO, WAS on the mailing list of a local politician who abused his franking privilege trying to associate himself with the trends of art to communism.

Many who received copies of his entries in the Congressional records were able to differentiate between fact and fiction. Unfortunately, S. Olshanka was not one of these as evidenced by the fact that she is still quoting them as authority.

KATHLEEN BIRCH
Birmingham

Motorist Sees B'ham As a 'Parking Trap'

To the Editor:

Was it a design speed trap. Birmingham has become a parking trap.

I have not arrived at this impression hastily. It is an accumulation of years.

The temptation to take quick money is great. And when you can do it for noble reasons, you can resist?

The menace grows and grows until the law becomes obnoxious even to law-abiding citizens.

Last Friday morning at 10 minutes to 9, I parked across the street from Maple Cleaners to pick up a pair of pants.

I was in the store two or three minutes. Traffic was light, and I could see every car at all times. A police officer was writing me a ticket when I returned to the car.

"What's the trouble, officer?"

"This is an illegal parking zone until 9 a.m."

"You are right, officer. It slipped my mind."

I took the ticket, realizing I was at fault. But the ticket was marked not once, but twice: \$4 for illegal parking, or \$6 if not paid within five days; and \$3 because I had left the keys in the ignition, or \$5 if not paid within five days. A total of \$7 if paid quickly, and \$11 if I waited five days.

But the menace grows and grows until the law becomes obnoxious even to law-abiding citizens.

The Village Improvement Society has cut all the weeds and thistles on the parks and adjoining land where there was no one to look after it. The society has also cut for the Lee heirs, at their request and expense, on all land belonging to them.

F. Hamlin seems to be a busy man. With all his other assignments, he has secured a star mail route. The evening mail goes to Euclid and now via the auto route, and the time Hamlin makes the trip in, breaks all records.

30 YEARS AGO
July 30, 1931

Southern Oklahoma County will raise a fine voice of joyous welcome Saturday as the Grand Trunk commuter service over a new \$2 million right-of-way to Pontiac, after five long years of planning, will come into being. The celebration demonstration will center in Birmingham with a dozen other cities and villages along the line joining it.

Elizabeth Pollock will reign supreme over the "Pageant of Progress" here Saturday. The daughter of Howard Pollock, 152 S. Ruffner St., and a former Baldwin High student, she received 1009 votes in the balloting. Patsy Henry's work for the nine other nominees will comprise the queen's court of honor to ride in the pageant.

An expenditure of about \$135 for the improvement of parking space and the elimination of danger at the corner of West Maple and Baldwin roads, the site of the village park and public drinking fountain, was approved by the Village Commission Monday night.

15 YEARS AGO
July 25, 1946

Birmingham is still looking for the site of its new pumping station. Although water has been discovered in three previous attempts, the formation of the ground was such that it did not warrant the expense of a permanent pumping station. Another test well was recommended by City Manager Donald E. Egbert this time northerly and westerly from the third test well on the Peabody farm on Asher road. Egbert also recommended an additional test well on Querton Road, also northerly and westerly from the present site.

George S. Scott, recently ap-

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER
Idea!
Prompted by remarks of George P. Taylor, the man responsible for prosecuting people accused of crime in Oakland County.

He was talking about a movie in a Hollywood firm is shooting in various parts of the county. Called "Jacktown," this feature-length documentary is to tell the story of a youth sent to Jackson Prison after conviction on a rape charge.

"It illustrates," said Prosecutor Taylor, "how easy it is to make a mistake and end up in a place like Jackson."

"If they can just see how it is inside, they'll think twice before they make that mistake."

IDEA: WHY not let teen-age offenders see the inside of Jackson Prison?

Why not set up a program whereby first-offenders would be taken on a tour of the place?

Show them the complete works:

How prisoners are processed—deloused, etc.—upon admittance.

How they are clothed.

How they are put to work.

How they eat.

How they are housed.

How they are guarded.

Give them a good look at life behind bars. Let them see the records of some of the inmates—how they got started in crime, how long and how many times they have been in prison.

BUT THERE is no law to set up such a program. And where would the money come from?

The answer to both: Establish a voluntary program, sponsored by one or all of the service clubs. There probably are several ways to handle such a program, any one of which would pose some problems.

But simply, it could work something like this: The sponsoring organization could pay all costs and let the proper police and court officials handle all details—deciding who would be eligible and might benefit, when they would go, how many would go at one time, what they would see, etc.

Or, the sponsoring group could pay expenses and provide volunteers to conduct the tours—working closely with police and court officials; always with someone representing authority accompanying the tours.

VOLUNTEER counseling programs—in which groups of private citizens (usually successful business and professional people) meet and talk informally with law-breakers—have proved successful in Michigan.

A couple of years ago the Warren Kiwanis Club initiated a program of counseling young probationers in Macomb County and it drew considerable attention and praise from state officials.

Why not see how it works and let it serve as a basis for attempting in Oakland County an experiment of "touring the prison"?

By DENI SCANLON

Talk of the Towns

Space talk is growing more serious every day. It's a timely topic of conversation and this reporter wonders just how people really feel about the prospect of traveling beyond the atmosphere.

A few local residents were asked.

This is what they had to say:
Mrs. Marilyn L. Altkruze, 26025 Carol, Franklin, commented, "It is something I would like most NOT to do. But," she continued, "if I find myself in that position I'm sure it would be exciting, stimulating and most satisfying."

Mrs. Altkruze said she would be particularly interested in seeing the earth from a different perspective.

Her eight-year-old son Mark said he thought he would like to ride in space. But not today.

Beverly Hills Attorney William F. Nera, 18444 Hillcrest, described how he thought he would feel. "I would probably experience a tremendous freedom."

Nera said he would most likely search to see the various planets, the cloud formations and wonders of space. He said the sight of the earth would be the biggest thrill.

"Presuming I wouldn't be piloting the ship," Nera added jokingly, "I guess I'd enjoy it after getting used to a new situation."

Fred G. Bielman, 31655 Southfield Road, Beverly Hills, took a different attitude.

"I think there's perhaps too much attention given to space travel. Before we ought to set our feet on the ground and turn our eyes to things here on earth."

Another area resident had this to say: "As a member of the younger generation, I have a keen interest in the space probes. "I can see the possibility of a whole new phase in the development of mankind."

"I'll be disappointed if I don't some day have the opportunity to see this earth and the universe from a plane that flies a little farther and a little faster than the ones we are accustomed to today."

"After all, Orville Wright's famous flight was the day after my father was born. My dad is only 57 years old."



One Thing or Another

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

George William Averill is on vacation. His column will resume with the Aug. 17 edition.

George S. Scott, recently ap-