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Liberty's Foundation

This is National Newspaper Week, and following is President Reagan's message:

"The theme of the 1984 observance of National Newspaper Week, 'Newspapers: Lighting Freedom's Way,' provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the importance of this institution to our way of life. As Herbert Hoover once said, 'Freedom of the press ... is a foundation stone of American liberty.'

"The Statue of Liberty stands as a beacon to guide our great republic through these troubled times just as a strong, independent, and free press illuminates our country's journey with the light of freedom's way.

"Never in history have a people enjoyed the fruits of liberty as we have. Our economic, religious, and political freedom is dependent upon the open exchange of ideas and varying opinions expressed in America's newspapers. This readily available source of information helps guarantee a knowledgeable public without whose understanding our representative form of government would crumble into ashes.

"As that great monument in New York Harbor is now being refurbished, let us rededicate ourselves to the principles of a free press and renew our commitment to support and defend it against all enemies."

People To Vote On 4 Measures

By LLOYD B. OMDAHL
An Opinion Article

Unless the political winds do some rapid shifting, the most exciting contests of the evening on Nov. 6 may be the ballot measures. In that event, everybody should be posted on the propositions.

Voters will make decisions on four measures at this general election — three proposed amendments to the state constitution and one measure for a statute.

Measure No. 1 is a proposal to strike out references to the office of state treasurer in the constitution. If the voters approve this measure, the duties of the treasurer would be transferred to other state agencies.

An interim legislative committee has already been working on the statutes that would require revision if the measure passes. The amendment would become effective on Jan. 1, 1989, meaning that whoever wins the office of treasurer will still get to serve a four-year term. The 1989 effective date also gives the Legislature two sessions to reassess duties.

Measure No. 2 is quite lengthy, revising the language of half of the legislative article of the constitution. Voters in the June primary approved revision of the first half of the legislative article. Adoption of Measure No. 2 would make the revision complete.

Were it not for an oversight on the effective date of laws passed by the legislature, it would be easy to write kindly about Measure No. 2. However, as explained in a previous column, the new language provides that laws passed by the Legislature becomes effective on July 1 or 90 days after their enactment, whichever is later. This language could put appropriation and tax measures into July, after the fiscal year begins. That could create some problems.

Measure No. 3 is a proposed constitutional amendment placed on the ballot by petition. It guarantees citizens the right to keep and bear arms for the defense of persons,

family, property and the state, as well as for lawful hunting and recreational activities.

According to the U.S. Supreme Court, citizens had better be careful using arms to protect property. It behooves people to be aware that even though defense of property is included in a state constitution, they could still get in trouble with the U.S. Supreme Court if they brandish guns to protect property.

Measure No. 4 started out as a referred measure but had to be converted to an initiated measure.

The 1983 Legislature passed a law to transfer three junior colleges to state jurisdiction. Opponents of the transfer circulated petitions to refer this measure. However, the North Dakota Supreme Court invalidated the petitions. So the act became effective on July 1, 1983, and the three junior colleges became part of the state system of higher education.

Since the measure had become law, it could no longer be referred but had to be repealed by initiated measure. That is what Measure No. 4 proposes to do. A "yes" vote returns control of the colleges to the local communities of Bismarck, Devils Lake and Williston; a "no" vote will be for keeping the colleges in the state system. This measure will likely find some people voting contrary to their intentions.

Predicting the outcomes of elections on measures is very dangerous. Outside of the initiated amendment to bear arms — which is safe to predict will pass handily — the measures are totally unpredictable.

Polls on the future of the treasurer's office are not decisive enough to point one way or the other. The legislative revision article is also an unknown, since the first half passed in June with very little publicity.

The junior college measure is going to be confusing with "yes" to kill the transfer and "no" to keep it. It would be close even without this confusion.

Typewriter Talk

By DOUG LARSON

How come diners compliment the chef when food is good and blame the waitress when it's bad?

The reason George Washington never told a lie is that he ran unopposed.

Personnel managers have it tough these days trying to make lunch hours coincide with soap operas.

The neighborhood grocery store, which closed because it was too small to hold all the breakfast cereals, will soon be joined by the corner drugstore, which can't keep up with the shampoos.

Having found out that their elders could be just as good at growing long hair, young people have taken up break dancing.

A penny saved is about as much as you can expect.

Among the major topics of discussion at the three-martini lunch is the two-cup coffee break.

While worrying does not cause gray hair, there is considerable evidence that the vice versa is true.



Congress Observes Its Year Of The Pig

By PATRICK J. BUCHANAN
An Opinion Article

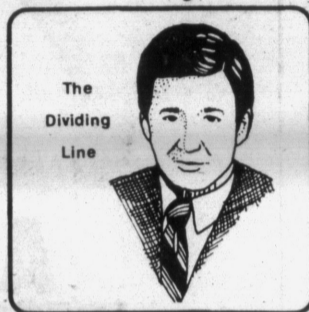
The thing was done in the early hours of Oct. 3. Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, a candidate for Senate majority leader, cajoled his colleagues into a voice vote on a tiny amendment to the continuing resolution to keep the U.S. government in operation. The amendment would forgive the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, playpen of the Washington sparklies, all \$33 million in back interest owed the American people, and also forgive, in advance, the next 33 years in interest payments on a \$20 million loan you and I made to the Kennedy Center for a parking lot years ago.

Rep. Guy V. Molinari, R-N.Y., described the bailout: "It is a rather sad episode, and Senator McClure is going to have to answer for his own actions ... How do we, with all the rhetoric and nonsense over deficits and a balanced budget, justify this in advance — a total giveaway?"

"They became pigs," the angry conservative fumed about the elite who run Kennedy Center; they "said they had friends on the Hill who could solve this for them." Unfortunately, they were right.

Among the Draconian measures Molinari had in mind to require Kennedy Center patrons to pay more of the cost of their own entertainment was a hike from \$3 to \$4 in the price of nightly parking for the Mercedes and BMWs so favored of the Washington Establishment in the Kennedy Center garage. Outrage was immediate. "The Kennedy Center officials shuddered with horror at the thought," Molinari noted, "and they said we would cause a substantial decline in attendance — patrons who pay as much as \$55 a night."

So much for the spirit of sacrifice in America's capital in 1984.



While the Kennedy Center bailout is immense in terms of the institution's size, it is piddling alongside the administration's bailout of Continental Illinois, where, at last report, the U.S. taxpayer will have to come across with perhaps \$3.5 billion to make whole the idiocies of the bubbleheads who ran into the ground America's seventh largest bank.

While the Kennedy Center raid appears to have succeeded, the glitterati were rebuffed in an earlier run at the Treasury. Several weeks ago, President Reagan, showing some moxy, vetoed a huge increase in funding for the elite's television programming on PBS. From the howls on that one, you would have thought Ed Meese just upended the portable soup kitchen that prowls the White House neighborhood.

What does this suggest? Only this: Despite the campaign rhetoric about the "deficit crises," business is going on very much as usual at the grand bazaar on Capitol Hill.

Here are a few excerpts from a story deep inside this morning's paper: "Reagan tried to eliminate the community service block grant ... but Congress approved \$374 million ... Reagan tried to eliminate the work incentives program ... but Congress approved \$270 million ... Rea-

gan sought \$115 million to train health professionals, but Congress approved \$234.5 million ... The funds included a big boost for nursing programs, including fellowships and research grants for which Reagan sought \$14 million and Congress approved \$66.7 million ... Congress increased a block grant for maternal and child care from \$399 million last year to \$478 million. Congress also approved sizable increases for the National Institute of Health, where the administration had sought to hold the line ..."

Where is this money going to come from? Since the government is broke, the government will borrow from the savings of the American people, and pay 10 to 12 percent interest on that borrowing every year for the remainder of the life of the republic.

What does this routing performance tell us? Quite simply that when Walter Mondale contends that the \$85 billion in new taxes he plans to raise will be set aside in a trust fund to pay off the deficit, Mondale is talking through his hat. Give this crowd \$85 billion, and they would have the melon sliced up and eaten in three months.

The cliché is operative. The government is out of control. When it comes to halting the growth in federal spending, the Republican Party's spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak; in the Democratic Party there is hardly any spirit at all. The Republicans lack the courage of their convictions; the Democrats have no convictions — only a mindless proclivity for increasing the amount of wealth taken from the American people to buy the continued support of their ever-narrowing and clamorous political base.

As the congressional Year of the Pig comes to a close, the thought again impends: Maybe we do need a new party.

Reagan Themes Popular

By BEN WATTENBERG
An Opinion Article

I am reminded during these days of the election season of Edgar Allan Poe's great mystery, "The Purloined Letter." In the course of a frenzied police search for an incriminating missive, rooms are turned upside down. Carpets are removed. Dresser drawers are searched for hidden compartments. But the letter is never found because it has been placed where no one would think to look — on the mantelpiece, in full view.

Now listen to the election dialogue these days: "Ronald Reagan is way ahead because he is so amiable." "Walter Mondale is behind because he's no good on television." "The voters don't favor Reagan on the issues but like him because he's got leadership qualities." "Mondale's campaign is hurting because of bad advance work." "Reagan is ahead because no gaffes, no goofs, no sleaze, no blame sticks to his Teflon presidency." "Reagan is frustrating Mondale because he won't come out with a plan for the future."

All quite interesting, some of it even mildly relevant. But right there on the mantelpiece in full view is the major, and obvious, reason voters are for Reagan: On the big, overriding concerns of our time, they agree with him.

Simple, painful for Democrats, but true. Reagan ran for the presidency on some big themes: strong defense, traditional values, less government, free enterprise. He said he'd have us standing tall, able to shape our individual destinies.

Most Americans agreed with those themes in 1980. Moreover, many perceived that Democrats had abandoned those themes. Any they are themes with which Americans still agree in 1984.

Now, his true Reagan doesn't have a lock on all the good themes; compassion is not his strong suit. And surely, around the edges, Reagan can be justly criticized for not delivering on some of his thematic promises. Thus, three bombings of Americans in Beirut is perceived as "Crawl Tall," not "Stand Up for America."

But, by and large, Americans sense that Reagan is delivering, or trying to deliver, just what he said he would deliver, and what they like. From that fact flows his personal popularity and Mondale's problem.

This is not the fault of Mondale's fall campaign or of his poor style on the stump. In fact, Mondale is trying to do what must be done, and it is not impossible that he will have some success at it before it's all over.

Talking about the Democratic Party the other day to Meg Greenfield in a Washington Post interview, Mondale said: "I moved that political party. I moved it to the middle. I've made it stand up for a strong defense. I spoke clearly about the Soviets and the threat."

Indeed, from flag-waving at the Democratic convention, to pro-family themes sounded by Mario Cuomo and Geraldine Ferraro, to Mondale's pledge to hold down domestic federal spending, it's clear that some Mondale Democrats have found the letter on the mantelpiece and are responding to its message. But the key question is this: Is it too little and too late?

We shall get clues toward an answer on Election Day. But it would be quite remarkable if American votes wholly forgave or forgot almost two decades of Democratic drift to the left just because of two months of political tough talk.

The problems are old ones and the wounds are deep. Consider friends of mine from Washington, D.C. They are merchants. They grew up as Democrats. Their store was burned out during riots in the 1960s — just about the time Democrats were denouncing "Law 'n' order." They haven't voted Democratic since. They probably never will.

There is a danger that some Democrats may draw two wrong lessons from what is going on. On the one hand they refuse to read the message. It's Reagan's amiability and leadership and Mondale's dullness that's doing us in, they say. Therefore, we don't have to change, just look for a charismatic candidate next time after Reagan rides off into the sunset.

Or, they say: Even when we try to change, we're losers. So we may as well continue to cater to special-interest groups, such as feminism, quotas, the freeze and sexual preference — just to begin a long list.

The right course for Democrats is simple. Read the letter on the mantelpiece. Understand it. Respond to it. Keep doing that until the voters believe you really mean it. Which may take awhile.

Will Rogers

Well, all I know is just what I read in the papers, and I want to tell you brother, when you read the papers nowadays and get through one candidate's speech, including the denials, why, you have just about done a day's work.

Just think where we would be if both candidates would make speeches the same night! Why, we would be two days behind with our reading. — Oct. 7, 1928.



Editor's Note: Letters must be signed, preferably in ink, and the writer must include his or her street address (if any). The writer's name may not be withheld from publication. Letters should be limited to about 300 words or less. The News reserves the right to edit letters for such factors as length, clarity, punctuation, spelling, etc. "Thank You" letters are not published.

Halt Cloud Seeding

Editor, The News: I have been concerned about the unnecessary cloud seeding in McLean County for so many years. I simply can't understand how such enterprising farmers and town folks do not smarten up and put a stop to this foolish, wasteful and experimental nonsense. Many of you have seen the terrific destruction by increasingly large hailstones just a few minutes after the pilot seeded the clouds with silver iodide and dry ice. We are only paying high taxes for ruined crops, gardens wiped out, and buildings that are all wrecked.

So it is no wonder that our insurance rates are going up. In areas where previously hail was unheard of, we are witnessing destruction of the worst kind. Cloud seeding causes droughts in some areas that had an average amount of rain, and some areas have had so much rain that farmers were not able to harvest their crops.

Now I have checked with two governmental agencies concerning the effectiveness of this experimental project. One is the North Dakota Weather Modification Board at Bismarck and the other is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Environmental Research Laboratories at Boulder, Colo.

Modern cloud seeding began in the late 1940s with the discovery of the ice-nucleating properties of silver iodide and dry ice. The most intensive studies have been made in cloud seeding, and the results were not conclusive. These experiments and studies have since been terminated, as interest in weather modification, particularly in the federal government, is at a low ebb. Cloud seeding should be discontinued like it has been in many counties, as we have conclusive evidence written by experts from the federal government that it has failed in doing what it was supposed to do. I do hope that you citizens of McLean County vote against cloud seeding so that we will not see those planes in the clouds over McLean County. Remember, many counties have discontinued cloud seeding! — E.J. Bokovoy, Route 1, Ruso

Get Job Done Fast

Editor, The News: As a concerned motorist, I would like to place my opinions on the construction on Broadway. Why don't they work overtime to finish the job? It is very dangerous at all intersections. They should do what is necessary to solve this problem, and one way is to get the job done as fast as possible before an accident occurs. — Darin Hegney, Kief

Readers' Rostrum

Sinner's Statement

Editor, The News: I am astonished at the current campaign distortions of what George Sinner said about North Dakota's air bases. He never said he would close any base. Any high school civics student knows governors cannot close air bases. Since Sinner's original remarks answered a question I asked at a public forum, I want to set the record straight.

On March 11 in Grand Forks I asked the four Democratic gubernatorial candidates how they would use the governor's office to provide leadership in peace issues. I mentioned the problem of competing special-interest groups and gave several examples, including the following: Suppose the United States and the Soviet Union reached an agreement for a balanced reduction of nuclear weapons, and as a part of that agreement a North Dakota air base was on the list of systems to be mothballed. Would you support such an agreement, or would you please special interests in North Dakota? As part of his lengthy, thoughtful response candidate Sinner said, "If it came to closing an air base to do that, we're going to have to support it" (Grand Forks Herald, March 12). The context is quite clear.

High school students know something else: They know that sooner or later those missiles will be gone. If they have been launched or vaporized, my question of last March will have been in vain. But if they are gone because political leaders have finally had the courage, imagination and vision to reach such significant agreements as were a part of our discussion last March, it will not have been in vain. — James McKenzie, 607 S. 5th St., Grand Forks

Tell It Like It Is

