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SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1959

Excellence Is A Seamless Garment

WHAT will we do with the Conant report, THE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL TODAY?
It is necessary to ask such a question because Dr. James Conant, distinguished chemist, past president of Harvard and U. S. high commissioner to Germany...

As a rule, it is not being sufficiently challenged does not work hard enough, and his program of academic subjects is not of sufficient range...

Dr. Conant underscores some hard truths. In a preaching democracy they need to be harped on over and over. One is that the democratic dogma can smother the spark of excellence.

Another is that schools can be no better than the tone and the aims of a society. If we thirst for mediocrity, halloving the divinity of the undistinguished, mediocrity will have — in the high schools as elsewhere Excellence is a seamless garment, and any nation which wishes to sport it must wear it in and out of the classroom.

Still another truth is that if the bugaboo of seeming "undemocratic" or creating a superior elite haunts us, the schools will continue to bury Dr. Conant's "academically talented student" under a curriculum that bores him, work loads he laughs at, and a conventionalism he finally accepts in weary acquiescence.

Dr. Conant has not prescribed a panacea for the American high schools, and he has said that without radical changes the good may become excellent and the mediocre, perhaps, good. But there will have to be some reconciliation to the worth of superiority. That is where the peace must be made.

Dr. Conant buys none of it. There are no devils, and there is no such thing as a typical American high school. Furthermore, it is impossible to draw a blue print of an ideal high school. High schools in America directly reflect their milieu, whether it be suburbia, the laborer's ghetto, the immigrant slum, or one gigantic wheat field.

But surely, we will say something must be wrong. Among the many detailed, hard-headed criticisms Dr. Conant brings from his investigation, one, he says, does indeed stand out. "If the 55 schools I have visited, all of which have a good reputation, are at all representative of American public high schools, I think one general criticism would be in order: The academically talented student."

'Schizophrenia' That Was Felt Abroad

LIE down on the couch, like said in the budget critics you have "schizophrenia" Split personality.

WASHINGTON
THE President of Argentina, Mr. Frondizi, has come to Washington and gone. Unlike Mr. Mikoyan's visit, his was a state visit in which the whole ritual for such occasions was observed.

That was at his press conference last week. There then was an explosion in London, thousands of miles from Washington, which might be said to indicate schizophrenia in the administration itself. "Few incidents," writes Drew Middleton of the New York Times, "have caused deeper or more widespread irritation in Britain."

The question is whether we are ready to recognize the principle that rich nations in the world community, like rich individuals in their own communities, have a duty to help the poor to raise themselves out of poverty.

What was the incident? The English Electric Company's low bid (19 per cent lower than the nearest American competitor's) had been rejected in Washington. The British company's turbines were to be used in a dam in Arkansas, but on grounds of "national security," the bid had gone to a Pennsylvania company, Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton. The evidence is fairly conclusive that the switch

was made as early as last Nov. 1 for the benefit of a Republican candidate for the Senate, Rep. Hugh Scott, whose campaign was undermined by Pennsylvania unemployment.

Everyone Will Watch But Rip Van Winkle

PERHAPS we'll bridge the missile gap. If we can awaken from the national nap.

With the extraction of all fatigue toxin. Morphic influences they'll be outfoxin'.

But the unconquerable gap, for all intentions. Is the astonishing boredom with Science inventions.

And for 23 hours the vigil will last. To observe the marvelous science repeat.

If today's headlines tell us with knifeless surgery. Sleepless marathons and abstruse metallurgy.

Explorations of Saturn and Mars. Atomic isotomies, soundless cars.

Just wait 'til the 60's (according to FORTUNE). With genetics and inventions our wits importune.

And to end the worries of mortal strife. The antisepic synthesis of human life!

Helicopters in every large city. Electronic refrigerators without moving parts.

Only one thing worries us about these new wrinkles: The inevitable presence of Rip Van Winkles.

Ultra-sonic dishwashers, silent, trim. Rocket sojourns to spacial parts.

Super-deeper Hudson Valleys, with science unenhused. Will be jammed with reactionaries who always snoozed.

And if your taste runs to prophecy more distant. The Soviet News Agency TASS is in-sistent.

Blase humanists reading Rousseau and Shelley. Stone-age romantics whose ideas are smelly.

That more lies in science than a smutpunk deep —. That we can live with but two hours' sleep!

Committing the blank crime in a world purged of ills. Of crying, "To Hell with your anti-sleep pills!"

From The Baltimore Sun

MENUS AND BUDGETS

THE Tour D'Argent in Paris is an unusual restaurant. Some other time we will discuss the unusual excellence of its cuisine and the unusual view from its windows. Today we confine ourselves to another of its unusual characteristics: its unusual way of presenting the menu to its clientele.

From the outside the menu presented to the lady and the one presented to the gentleman look identical. But inside they are different. The gentleman's menu includes the prices which are staggering, but in the lady's copy the prices are discreetly omitted. The weaker sex is spared sordid thoughts of cost as she weighs the delights of *Beaufort's Roast*, pressed duck, *Trout à la Meunière*, rate of wild boar, *perceps m. kirch*, and all the other tempting things.

A pedestrian is a guy who knows there are several pallons of gas in the tank when the gauge points to empty.—CASABAD CURRENT-ANGUS.

There is an analogy here with current attitudes toward budget making. Some people think that the way to proceed is to order everything on the menu that tempts the appetite and let the cost hang over them, as for instance the present administration, are unable to disregard those great big figures in the right-hand column and try to keep the cost of the meal within the capacity to pay. The first method is more fun, in a way, but can be needlessly expensive. The second method, though stodgy, avoids future embarrassment and is better for the digestion.

'We Have To Consider The—Uh—National Security'

Somebody's Lying

'Soothing Syrup'

By JOSEPH ALSOP



IN PUBLIC and in private, the soothing syrup really memorable in several respects from the earlier period, before we had even tried this year's soothing syrup.

This year's soothing syrup differs in several respects from the earlier period, before we had even tried this year's soothing syrup. For instance, it has a higher content of outright untruth. Even the President indulged in flat misstatement of facts, though doubt unwittingly, when he told his press conference that "our mutual program is going forward as rapidly as possible."

FACTS LEFT OUT

But what makes the 1959 vintage of soothing syrup really memorable is not so much the untruth that is included, but all the harsh, disagreeable, indigestible facts that are left out. As a really superb illustration of how to compound soothing syrup by the method of omission, consider the "diversified means of delivery" argument used before the Senate Armed Services Committee by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Gen. Nathan Twining, and by Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy.

DEBIT COLUMN

On the debit side of the balance sheet, in other words, Twining and McElroy wrote down just Soviet missiles. In the meantime, the more than 100 ICBMs that are now in the hands of the Soviet Union are being sent to our allies, and so on and so on. According to Twining and McElroy, the results ought to satisfy everyone.

On the credit side of the balance sheet, in other words, Twining and McElroy wrote down just Soviet missiles. In the meantime, the more than 100 ICBMs that are now in the hands of the Soviet Union are being sent to our allies, and so on and so on. According to Twining and McElroy, the results ought to satisfy everyone.

FIFTEEN A MONTH

The facts that demand this assumption are of all sorts. One is the regular Soviet IRBM testing rate—15 a month, fired off as though by clockwork.—which clearly implies testing rates of 1500 operational IRBM squadrons. Another related fact is the identification of a man from their own party. The man has many highly capable lawyers in his ranks—men who would have long ago seen appointment of a high officer had they been Democrats.

Let Liquor Interests Feed Hungry Kids

NOTICE in a recent edition of your paper that hungry school children are begging for food in our city and county. I also note the suggestion that perhaps ABC liquor funds might possibly be used to feed these children. My conviction is that if the liquor interests were required by law to feed all the children they make hungry the problem would be solved.

Quote, Unquote

"Everyone complains of his memory, none of his judgment."—Duc de la Rochefoucauld.

Friends In Need

The Duty of Rich Nations

By WALTER LIPPMANN

WASHINGTON
THE President of Argentina, Mr. Frondizi, has come to Washington and gone. Unlike Mr. Mikoyan's visit, his was a state visit in which the whole ritual for such occasions was observed.

And upon our consciences to help raise the living standards of the peoples of Asia, Africa, Latin America. These are the areas where most of mankind lives and where the struggle between freedom and totalitarianism may ultimately be decided.

Why? For the same fundamental reason, which is at once a matter of morals and of prudence, PORTENTOUS FACT

These are, I believe, the overriding facts of the times we live in and of the world in which we have to play our part. It is not too much to say that on our response to these facts will depend — if we do not all go up in the smoke of a world war — our prospects in the cold war, and our position in the decades to come as a world power.

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People's Platform

Republicans Barred From College Board

EDITORS, THE NEWS: CHARLOTTE
HARDIN RIGGS of Raleigh complains that the chief qualifications for the appointment of a new federal judge in the Eastern District of North Carolina is apparently the fact that he is a member of the Republican Party.

Let Liquor Interests Feed Hungry Kids

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"Everyone complains of his memory, none of his judgment."—Duc de la Rochefoucauld.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THIS city is famous for its oil, its beautiful Creole women, its bizarre French Quarter, its Mardi Gras, and for the Mississippi "Mother of Waters" which pours 40,250,000 tons of mud west into the Gulf of Mexico every year.

Less famous is a resident of New Orleans who has affected the lives of millions. He is Dr. Alton Ochsner of Tulane University, who about 20 years ago began pounding away at the theory that cigarette smoking caused lung cancer.

He Kept Pounding

Nobody paid much attention to him at the time. Even most of his medical associates doubted his research. But (later) kept pounding. He kept reading papers to medical meetings showing what happened to rats when subjected to cigarette smoke.

How The Lung Cancer Scare Began

Today, as a result of Ochsner's crusade, the U. S. Public Health Service has officially warned American smokers that cigarette use causes lung cancer.

The British Medical Society, the American Cancer Society and others have also gone on record regarding cancer and cigarettes.

'I Am So Proud'

"I am so proud of the American Cancer Society," Dr. Ochsner said when I talked to him in the Boston Club in New Orleans. "One year ago it passed a resolution that it was its duty to call attention to the effect of cigarettes, not only on the lungs but the heart. The American Heart Society proceeded to criticize us for invading its territory. But the Cancer Society stuck to its guns."

Skull And Crossbones

Dr. Ochsner, though long a resident of New Orleans, was born in South Dakota. He is watching a bill introduced in the South Dakota Legislature, by Don Stransky, which would require a skull and crossbones to be stamped on every package of cigarettes sold in that state.

Huey Long's Ghost

Huey Long, the late "Kingfish," has been dead more than 30 years, but his ghost still hangs over the bayous of Louisiana. His brother still sits as governor in the Executive Mansion, his son is in the United States Senate, his former social aide, Huey Long Jr., is still with him. The bridges he built, the free membership he instituted, are still rearing their heads. The filibustering, the rousing, the grotesque grandstanding are forgotten.