

Don't believe all you hear, unless it's a police car or fire truck siren or a train. -Courier, Ottomwa, Ia.

It's taken football less than a hundred years to learn all those names to call the referee.

The Jayton Chronicle

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Press Freedom

At the recent Associated Press managing editors' meeting in Kansas City newsmen expressed concern over their freedom to protect sources. The subject is timely because in recent months newsmen in Los Angeles, Newark and Boston have been imprisoned and others in Memphis, Baltimore, Washington, Milwaukee and other places have been subpoenaed. Newsmen in Reno, Baton Rouge, Seattle and Texarkana have been ordered by courts not to print certain material.

The central issue—protecting one's news source—is still not resolved. The press, generally speaking, continues to insist on the right of reporters' to protect their sources but as more reporters go to jail and the courts turn their attention to this issue, lines of freedom and authority will inevitably be more specifically defined.

That is desirable because there is currently widespread confusion. Rather than help the cause of press freedom, such newspapers as the New York Times and Washington Post have probably hurt it, since their bold action in printing stolen, secret government documents has turned public opinion against the press. And in the end public opinion will decide the issue.

In spite of the voices of newspapers which claim their freedom is threatened, and critics such as Ben Bagdikian, there are two sides to the controversy. Few responsible citizens or jurists think reporters should be allowed to print everything they or someone else can steal. On the other hand, few want judges telling newspapers what they can print, except in extremely sensitive and vitally important security cases.

In the nuclear age the country's security cannot be allowed to hinge on the voluntary restraint of any and every journalist, many of whom leap at sensationalism or exposure of secrets as the road to a Pulitzer Prize. A sensible, safe solution must be found in the public interest, likely to fall short of the absolute freedom of all newsmen to print anything they wish at any time but which would not protect bureaucrats and suppress legitimate reporting of public information.

Presidential Campaigns

Jim Haggerty, former press secretary to President Eisenhower, suggests presidential election campaigns as we know them in America be drastically reformed. His suggestions are fundamentally sound.

Haggerty says today's campaign is excessively long, that state primaries are unnecessary and string out the campaign needlessly, the major issues often go undiscussed because enthusiastic campaign managers get caught up in charges and counter-charges on personal issues of little importance, that public opinion polls unfairly give some advantages, that campaigns are becoming efforts aimed at image, of slick ad men and public relations experts, of television showmanship and imagery instead of an intelligent discussion of the major issues.

That presidential campaigns should be shortened seems generally agreed, that primaries in every state unnecessarily wear out candidates and inject too many local issues into the national debate is also apparent. That the major issues are often not adequately and thoroughly discussed is, likewise, self-evident. Similarly, the nominating process is often less than completely democratic. The reforming of both processes should be undertaken by the 93rd Congress.

Take A Stick To Him
A famous conductor on tour with his orchestra was handed this note from a member of the audience one night, following a concert.
"I don't like to tell tales out of school," it read, "but I think you should know that the man who hits that little triangular-shaped bell only played when you looked at him."

Bullitt On Bullitt & FDR

In a valuable and interesting new book based on the correspondence between his brother, former Ambassador William Bullitt, and President Franklin Roosevelt, Orville Bullitt has shed additional light on a number of momentous events during the past forty years.

In "For The President," which includes an introduction by George Kennan, Bullitt establishes rather clearly in a long exchange of correspondence the naive hope of the wartime President that he could deal with Stalin and Stalinist Russia. William Bullitt, first U.S. Ambassador to Communist Russia, was clear in his own mind concerning the ruthless uncompromising determination of policy by Stalin and his lackeys, and the danger this posed to the post-war world.

The author reveals that the French (his brother was U.S. Ambassador in Paris when the French collapsed and surrendered to the Germans in 1940) possessed more fighters than the Germans in 1940. The combined number of fighters available to the R.A.F. and French Air Force at that time was considerably greater than the Luftwaffe total!

The book recalls that in 1940 Roosevelt, while dining alone with Bullitt and a secretary in the White House, suffered a slight heart attack. It recalls the almost-hopeless and little remembered flight of thirteen B-24 bombers on a mission from Egypt to bomb the Ploesti oil fields in Rumania, a raid which caused no damage—in June of 1942, long before the major attack.

It reveals, alas, how Bullitt saw before the event what the Communists had in mind if they were to be allowed to overrun the Balkans. But by this time, Bullitt's influence with President Roosevelt was sharply reduced and Roosevelt was a sick man.

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Happy Holiday

As holiday time approaches fast there's lots of fuss and excitement — selecting and wrapping presents, preparing those hearty holiday foods, getting your home in tiptop holiday shape, and of course, being able to enjoy all the fun yourself! One result of all the excitement is pre-holiday indigestion caused not only by over-eating (or some anxious over-tasting), but by all the emotional stress, too. A good way to keep your stomach in check when the holidays finally do arrive — keep some Di-Gel antacid anti-gas tablets or liquid on hand. Don't let indigestion spoil your fun before it even starts. Z

BRANDT REELECTED

Bonn — Willy Brandt has won re-election as West Germany's chancellor in his greatest political triumph. He said the victory revealed a "new democratic middle" that he hoped to forge into a "great uniting force of our people."

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