



Inside WASHINGTON

MARCH OF EVENTS



IS LOOKING BETTER IN POPULARITY POLLS

RE-ELECTION CHANCES SEEM BETTER THAN EVER

By HENRY GATHCART

Central Press Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—President Johnson looks better in the popularity polls these days. There are some who would contend he had nowhere to go but up. But the more serious analyst would attribute his gain primarily to the increasing tempo of politics and the volubility of Republican presidential aspirants as they beat the bushes for primary election support.



President Johnson Things are looking up

The efforts of these GOP hopefuls serve to focus public attention on the alternatives they offer to the prospect of another four years of Johnson in the White House. Without in any way taking sides, it is inevitable that estimates of a president's capabilities and leadership will be reflected by sharper divisions of public opinion when they are viewed against alternatives and not against the absolute of "good" or "bad."

The apparent collapse of Johnson's January effort to stimulate peace talks in Vietnam, and the public tendency to rally behind a President at the moment of new crisis, such as that of North Korea, also serve to increase the public view of his popularity. But these factors are notably transitory. They reflect themselves in the percentages only sporadically, and should be "weighted" out in the polls.

What remains pertinent in the current political situation is that Johnson firmly occupies the broad, middle-of-the-road position on domestic and foreign policies, and that his opposition must move either to the right, alienating potential support from the center and left, or move to the left, alienating the center and the right.

It is on this basic political strategy that Johnson places his best hope for re-election. And it is this consideration that leads many political analysts to the belief that he has a better than 50-50 chance of re-election.

INSIDERS—The administrative branch of the federal government has stern rules against individuals dealing on the stock exchange as the result of "inside" knowledge of future events in areas in which they are involved officially. A few years ago, one high administration official resigned after it was disclosed that he had, in all probability innocently, speculated in a stock situation and made \$4,000.

Inside Tips Help Solons On Market

But there are no such rules for legislators on Capitol Hill. This came forcibly to attention recently when the White House called up some units of the Air Force and Naval Air Reserves. The White House, for protocol reasons, informed key legislators in advance of the public announcement and the news spread rapidly through Capitol corridors.

Washington stockbrokers claim that there was an unusually heavy amount of speculative trading emanating from Capitol quarters just in advance of the public announcement of the call-up.

Joseph Breig

The Case For Guaranteed Annual Income

Thirty-odd years ago, during the Great Depression which reduced folks to a diet of soup, I acquired an instant reputation as a blithering idiot by advocating a guaranteed yearly income for every family and every person.

Mildly denying that I had suddenly become a raving maniac, I argued that such a program made sense, not only as being morally right, but also as being economically sound.

My contention was that the whole thing boils down to this: we can base our economy on the poverty of the many and the wealth of the few, or we can base it on enough for everybody—and build on that.

The upshot of the latter alternative, I said, would be far more prosperity for everybody. The rich would not lose—although I do not deny that I could have tolerated their losing something for the good of their immortal souls.

In this connection, I remember being told once, by a management spokesman for a daily newspaper which employed me, that the unionizing of reporters and writers would mean, over the long haul, less income for me.

(My reply was in two parts: first, I did not believe that; I felt that individuals could go

higher in salary from a higher base than from a lower; second, if it was true, then very well—I did not want to thrive at the price of other people's want.)

As I say, my guaranteed income proposal was greeted with a tapping of foreheads and a circling of temples with eloquent forefingers. I was a nut—not to say a nut's nut—and that was that.

Now I have lived to see the same sort of program advocated by highly respected economists, industrialists, sociologists and political leaders. In various forms, it is gaining ground and status, day by day.

Arjay Miller, president of the Ford Motor Co., suggests that the objective be achieved by what he calls a "negative income tax," or in other words, allowances for poor families while maintaining the incentive to work.

Miller sent forth his plan in a talk to the prestigious National Industrial Conference Board, meeting in New York. He urged that a family with zero income be given a basic allowance according to the family's size and composition.

When a member of the family began to earn income, the allowance would be reduced by a tax—but not to the extent that the incentive to go on working and earning would be reduced or destroyed.

At Our House

Have Plans, But May Not Travel

By MARY TINLEY DALY



Of all the roleplaying the Head of the House and I have engaged in through the years, the most recent is that of would-be European travellers.

This, the year 1968, "The Year of the Monkey," was to have seen us embark for foreign shores: Ireland, homeland of our forebears; England, a revisit for the Head of the House; France, Germany, and of course The Eternal City; Spain and Greece, perhaps, if our feet and our money held out.

And now this—the proposed tax bite on international travel! Seems as though we've been tax-bitten pretty badly right here in the U.S.A. as we struggle once more with IRS Form 1040. Now some more of our \$\$\$ to help close that \$2.1 billion travel gap with a tax on American spending outside this hemisphere?

Well, it's a wait-and-see proposition, an all-dressed-up-and-no-place-to-go feeling for us, as it is for many other armchair travellers.

Homework

Oh, we've been doing our homework all right!

We've made lists of the places of interest we want to see in each country. The house is filled with travel folders, travel magazines; we've become telephone pals with steamship and airline salesmen; our local library checks out books in our

Pilgrimage Slated

A pilgrimage to the shrine of North American Martyrs at Midland, Ontario, Canada is set for June 22 and 23. Cost for transportation, all meals and lodging is \$31. For more information call Joseph Zimmer, 342-4038.

On the Right Side

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Up With Sisters!

By Father Paul J. Cuddy



For all those faraway places with their glamour descriptions.

We have studied money rates, hotel and transportation costs, investigated picking up a Volkswagen. We've brushed up on French, going along with Thomas Hood:

"Never go to France unless you know the lingo; if you do, like me, you will repent, by jingo!"

We've even learned basics in Italian and German, such as how to order in restaurants. For the Head of the House, this means how to order pig's knuckles, sauerkraut and beer.

Johnny has patiently demonstrated, perhaps for the hundredth time, just how to operate his camera which he will let us take along.

Family Advisors

Markie, who did her touring on a budget and had a wheel of a time so doing, introduced us to her "Bible," Arthur Frommer's invaluable "Europe on \$5 a Day" with its practical guidelines based on first-hand experience. For instance, whoever would have thought of seeking inexpensive, spotlessly clean lodging in Italian convents? Author Frommer gives names, addresses and prices. Included also are "Readers' Suggestions," helpful tips for various places.

Markie's own addenda will be (would have been?) mighty helpful too.

Ginny, our wardrobe consultant, has been supervising the clothing we've bought for the past six months with an eye to easy packability, convenient washability and a mix-and-match assortment of accessories for efficient travel. Based on her own European experience of a couple of years ago, Ginny assures us such selection will provide a minimum for taking a maximum amount of space for the pick-ups we'd inevitably acquire on our journey.

Now, it seems, the "bring-backs" are down to next-to-nothing. Also, day-by-day spending, at this stage of the legislation, seems based on an intricate system, full of loopholes, requiring an estimate of tax liability on departure, the making of a deposit, and another report plus pay-up on return to this country.

What we have not done yet—and won't do unless the "grand tour" looks more likely than it does at this writing—is to get ourselves vaccinated and have that passport picture taken. The driver's license picture was bad enough!

If an attack on home, motherhood and mothers were made in the press, we should first be astounded; then indignant; and finally vocal. There is something about the Catholic Sisters and our teaching Sisters as institutions and persons that have lost their "relevancy."

In our own diocese there are about 800 teaching Sisters. There are also some 125 priests and Brothers who are teaching in Catholic Schools; and some 600 laymen. The ingratitudes of many writers and speakers toward our Sisters is monstrous enough. The harm comes from the credibility given to these attacks by impressionable people. These attacks affect even some of our young candidates in religious life, and some who might be ready for such a vocation.

The documents of Vatican II spell out the will of the Council Fathers. In the "Declaration on Christian Education", the Fathers wrote: "This sacred Synod earnestly entreats pastors of the Church and all the faithful to spare no sacrifice in helping Catholic schools to achieve their purpose in an increasingly adequate way and to show special concern for the needs of those who are poor in the goods of this world or who are deprived of the assistance and affection of a family or whose fathers are unable to give them the gift of faith" (No. 9). In a footnote we read: "The emphasis is on the interpersonal. The value of the teacher is not only intellectual but above all, human and spiritual."

This same synod acknowledges its profound gratitude to

ward those priests, religious men and women, and lay people who in their evangelical self dedication, devote themselves to the surpassing work of education, including every kind and grade of schooling. Thus they will not only foster the internal renewal of the Church, but will safeguard and intensify her beneficial presence in the world of today, especially in the world of the future." (No. 12)

No one is ready yet to attack home and mothers. Mothers and their vocations are rated as noble; as influencing deeply the souls and personalities of children, husbands and society. "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." However our teaching Sisters are under a not too subtle attack because their work is considered "irrelevant." The fact is, the teaching Sisters are to the Church what mothers are to home and motherhood.

If any Sister is wavering about the "relevancy" of her work as a Christian teacher, let her listen to the real People of God; not to those men and women who are grateful for what has been given by our schools, for what is being given, and hopefully for what will continue to be given in the Spirit of Vatican II.

It is true that we cannot take care of all our children in the parish schools. It is true that Confraternity Schools are necessary to care for those who cannot be educated in the parish schools. But the needs of the CCD are not such that we must

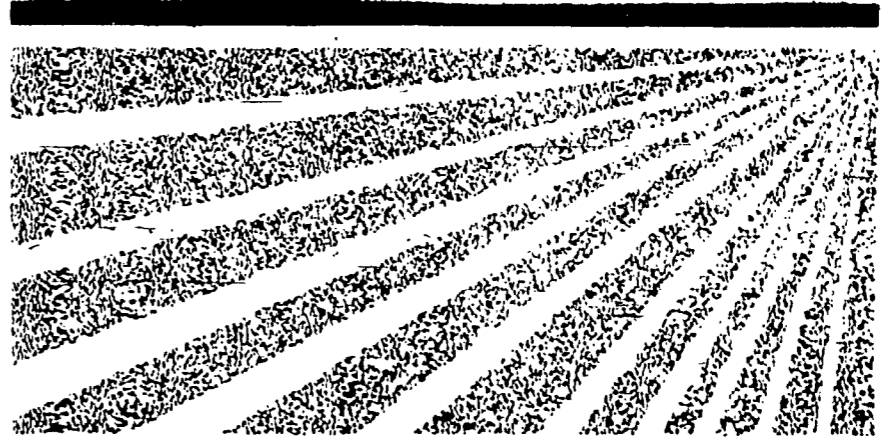
destroy the Catholic school system which we already have. Rather, both are necessary in our parish structures.

Of the dozens of teachers I have had over a period of 24 years of schooling, the greatest influence in my religious and intellectual formation was Sister Genevieve of the Sisters of Mercy. She was my eighth grade teacher in Holy Family school, Auburn. She was the incarnation of dedication, self-discipline, justice, faith and service.

I doubt that she had an educational degree. Neither did Abraham Lincoln. But no teacher in my experience equalled the skill to educate the mind and talents of her pupils as this revered nun. And no person taught more effectively and consistently the spirit of Christ than this Sister by her quiet, unobtrusive life. She was a faithful witness to Christ and His Church.

In 1940, Sister Agatha of the Sisters of St. Joseph died. She had taught the seventh grade in Ithaca for many years. Father Kress and I were assistants there and often recalled her as an exemplar of a great religious. At her wake and at her funeral big burly roughnecks stood in tears along with the dapper and the comfortable. This was a teachings Sister whose devotion to the least of our brothers was manifested in years of unspectacular, unpublicized service and love. Here was a spiritual mother.

An old saying goes: "As the twig is bent so grows the tree." Our teaching Sisters are special witnesses to Christ and to His Church. Let us praise them.



Spectrum Of Opinion

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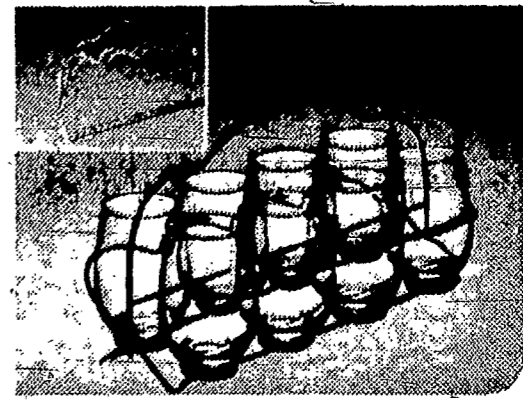
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Letters to the Editor

Sex Education, Parents' Job

Editor: May we comment upon your news release, 2/23/68, that Catholic schools in the Diocese of Rochester "will embark on a carefully planned program of sex-instruction for students."

Father Daniel Brent, associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools and Dr. Gerard Guerini, not pay the usual lip service to the rights of Catholic parents in the area of sex education but make it quite clear these rights have now been in the main absorbed by the school. Some "primary rights" indeed parents have, when they have to dance to the school's tune.

The State of New York's insufferable arrogance in transgressing upon the rights of parents to handle the highly individualized sexual needs of their children with their vulgar and amoral "Sex Education Seminars" (already in progress in some public schools), and their blatant coercion involved in forcing Catholic schools by 1970 to adopt similar programs in violation of parental rights apparently met with no strong outcry from these gentlemen.

Of course "there many problems in setting up an effective course in sex education," Dr. Guerini is quoted as saying, but "we're about 250 years behind, so we'd better get going." Apparently, we are to understand that if inherent parental rights stand in the way of progress, well, it's too bad. It is truly a pity that some

benighted parents are 250 years behind the times in not discussing in depth (as Fr. Brent would have it—as reported in the Buffalo Evening News) "the expression of love through physical union" with their fifth-graders, or "abortion, extra-marital pregnancy, prostitution, homosexuality and venereal diseases" with their 8th graders!

We suspect, however, that such parents have retained more common sense (and more theological horse-sense) than have the foolish Pelagian proponents of sex-education in the classroom who flout their denial of parental rights with a belabored distortion of Vatican II's one reference to "sexual education."

The fact is that sex education in the classroom is neither "proper" nor "prudent"—the two attributes stressed by Vatican II.

A San Francisco group of Catholic parents (as reported in the press) has well summarized the position of many Catholics in rightly protesting a similar program in their Diocese:

- "1. Sex education in the classroom is diametrically opposed to the teachings of the Church, past and present (Popes Pius XI, Pius XII, and Vatican II).
- "2. It is dangerous for the child; spiritually, emotionally, and physically.
- "3. Sex knowledge per se is not conducive to purity.
- "4. The psychology of individual difference is not taken into

account in the classroom. Children mature at varying ages and to force knowledge off this nature upon an unready child is unthinkable.

"5. The teacher (most are unmarried) is not as well equipped as parents to answer sex questions.

"6. They say sex instruction is optional. The child whose parents object will be banished from the classroom and removed from his peers during the showing of the films and discussions. This is ostracism.

"7. Sex education in the classroom is traumatic for some, undesirable for most, and unnecessary for all.

"8. The parental right as the primary educator (as stressed in Vatican II's Decree on Christian Education) is violated."

A Diocesan Sex Education Committee can perform a valuable service to the Diocese in assisting parents through extracurricular programs and workshops—and organizing efforts to change the State's mandated program that grossly interferes with the rights of the Catholic parents and the personal liberty of the individual.

But the absorbing, supplanting, and nullifying of parental right evident in the Diocese's experimental program makes a mockery of the Renewal of Family Life called for by Vatican II."

—Mr. and Mrs. James Likoudis Watkins Glen, N.Y.