

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Writers should confine themselves to 200 or 300 words. Give full names and addresses. No manuscripts can be returned. Space for letters is obviously limited. Incoming mail far exceeds it. The right to condense letters is reserved. Address letters to Voice of the People, THE TRIBUNE.

WAGE SNOWBALL

CHICAGO — In submitting the typical increased budget for Cook County, George W. Dunne includes 7 per cent to 21 per cent pay increases for various groups and he gives as reasons: to meet the prevailing wage, to make wages comparable and in line with private employers.



Dunne

Mr. Dunne also announces the county will begin to assume the full cost of all hospital and medical care insurance, instead of only half the cost. He knows as well as I that only one-half the cost is paid by private employers. Here, then, is that never ending snowballing that just never stops. Not to mention the additional 412 employees he claims are needed and will cost the taxpayers over \$3 million.

I suppose the lame and time-worn excuse will be, "The public demands more services." My answer is, "Mr. Dunne, have you asked the public lately?"

The Ironworkers Union is asking for a \$3 an hour increase in wages. This is inflated and excessive. They want 40 hours' pay for a 32 hour week, and in their contract is a "me too" clause which says that if carpenters or bricklayers receive an increase exceeding theirs by \$1 an hour, then the ironworkers must get a boost, too.

Again, we have that familiar snowball. T. D. C.

SOAKING CORPORATIONS

DECATUR, Ill. — Mike Kilian reports in your excellent paper of March 1 that the Democrats want to increase corporate taxes in Illinois, no doubt expecting us "boobs" to rush out and support candidates who want to give us a free ride on the backs of the corporations.

Corporate taxes are the biggest joke in our tax system. Taxes on business are and must always be a cost of business, and therefore are added to the cost of the products the corporation makes; that is, if it doesn't wish to go broke.

Corporations collect the tax from our pockets in the form of higher prices. Business must survive or perish on sufficient profit to permit growth commensurate with the ever-increasing demand for jobs, higher wages, and products, and pay a modest return to the stockholders.

Those who don't think the return is modest should buy a few shares of stock in even the best of companies. When we vote to tax the corporation, we tax ourselves. The fairest tax to all is the straight-across-the-board tax.

WALTER J. BOWAN

SAVE OUR LANGUAGE

CHICAGO — As a taxpayer, I favor teachers' getting a salary increase and better teaching facilities. I am also for weeding out about 75 per cent of the teachers—those who are poorly trained or not trained at all.

Last week, when visiting a public school, I heard a number of teachers speaking incorrectly. They said, "I axed" [for "I asked"] and "I be" [for "I am"], and added an "s" to "men" and "women" and left it off "cents." How did such people pass their examinations? Who were their examiners? Did they pay their way in?

I am a Chicago-born Negro who attended Chicago public schools 50 years ago, when we had teachers [whatever their subject] who taught pupils to speak correctly. Let's again teach our children to speak correctly. Save our beautiful English language.

Mrs. R. O.

NURSING HOMES

GALENA, Ill. — Tho I am only 21 years old and far from being eligible for nursing home confinement, I was shocked by the revelations in your paper about the neglect, abuse and uncleanness in Chicago area "nursing homes."

The basis for the abandonment of our aged in squalor is also the reason for America's unquestioned decline — that this nation is overrun with greedy and contemptuous bureaucrats who steal what they can from the public and violate the basic ethics of human decency.

What hope can there be for a nation so corrupt that it pretends to ignore the inhuman horrors which exist for the homeless aged?

LANCE BONNET

CHICAGO — Three cheers for the Better Government Association finally getting into the rat holes of the city — the nursing homes approved by the Chicago Board of Health, and licensed by the state of Illinois under false pretenses.

Letters of complaint about these conditions to the Board of Health, Mayor Daley, the state of Illinois, Health, Education and Welfare Department local representatives, the Better Government Association and newspapers brought only letters. They all promised to look into these matters of neglect but until now there has been little publicity in Chicago about the filth, lack of care, horrible food, falling out of wheelchairs, broken bones, etc.

MRS. LILLIAN SCHIFF

CHICAGO — It warmed my social worker's heart to read that a group of TRIBUNE reporters are using hammer and tongs on nursing homes and their owners. What a blessing for those confined in nursing homes by relatives who do not visit and by proprietors who do not care. It has been my prayer that this hopeful move against nursing homes would be made in Chicago—and THE TRIBUNE did it! K. W.

CHICAGO — I am sure there will be a hue and cry by concerned citizenry regarding the practices exposed by THE TRIBUNE in many nursing homes. But the sad fact remains that were people really concerned in the first place, the unethical operator could not remain in business. It has always been easier to close our eyes than to face facts!

MRS. RICHARD RADDATZ

CHICAGO — Thank you for not letting me sleep tonight, after reading your Task Force stories about conditions in some nursing homes. I've had a nerve sleeping anyway, pretending that I really didn't know what lurked behind the sullen eyes staring out from homes with apple pie for a middle name.

"Thank you" is not enough, but I mean it with all of the 50 years between me and maybe helplessness.

DOTTI BAKER

FOR LIMITED TENURE IN CONGRESS

LOMBARD — In 1967, in an article in Reader's Digest,

Dwight D. Eisenhower recommended a maximum tenure for members of both House and Senate of 12 years. He wrote, "I am convinced that if this change were made, we would have a far better Congress—more efficient, more realistic, more responsive to the needs of the nation." [Eisenhower also recommended an increase of representatives' terms to four years.]

Seniority on committees would, under his system, pass from one to another more frequently than at present. As the former President pointed out, "some become virtual czars in certain fields, so inflexible that vital legislation which the people want... is long delayed or even stopped cold because it clashes with their own wishes."

I think it is past time for us to revamp Congress so that it becomes truly representative, worthy of respect, and geared to the needs of our nation. As it is now, most of its members misuse the public trust to return political favors.

MARY ROWLEY

GARBAGE DUMPS FOR RECREATION

CHICAGO — The garbage dumping crisis is upon us! Pickups by private scavengers are delayed for lack of proximate dumping grounds. Many schemes are proffered for compressing, concentrating, and recycling garbage. Why not let our garbage provide recreation for us!

Each village with uncommitted land should set aside acreage for dumping grounds and build hills to be used for skiing, tobogganing and other recreational pleasure. As one hill attains maturity, it should be committed to public recreation and dumping transferred to a neighboring community to build up its hill.

Mount Trashmore, an old converted dumping grounds in Evanston, is a beautiful attribute to a far-sighted city planning program. Intelligent inter-village and intravillage planning is needed. Can we turn a crisis into an opportunity?

BERNARD A. WIDEN

'INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION'

CHICAGO — A letter in this column Feb. 22 urged that we "embrace a new allegiance" to "an international federation of nations."

If and when we are governed by a "one world" government, it will be a Communist-controlled government. As every well-informed American knows, this is the Communists' ultimate goal.

GLENN W. COATE

Guest Editorial

NEW LEFT REPUBLIC?

(National Review Bulletin)

On April 6, Berkeley, long the unofficial capital of the nation's New Left community, may make it official.

April 6 is election day in Berkeley. Up for grabs are the mayoralty and four of the eight City Council seats, for which New Leftists are fielding a full slate of candidates. Also on the ballot is a "community control of the police" amendment to the city charter that would divide Berkeley, apartheid style, into white and black districts, each with its own locally controlled ethnic police force.

The community control amendment will probably be voted down. But the New Leftists believe that they can elect one of their own as mayor and

take the City Council seats. In most American cities, professed radicals would stand no chance of mustering significant support in open elections. But Berkeley is not like most cities. "A unified radical slate has an excellent chance of victory in April," editorializes the Berkeley Daily Gazette, a moderate-to-conservative paper, "and indeed is an odds-up favorite."

The key to the radical chance of success is the massive voter registration drive, centered, as have been so many other overtly political campaigns, on the Berkeley campus. Spearheaded by the April 6 Movement, a coalition of radical groups including everything from the Trotskyite Socialist Workers Party to Tom Hayden's Red Tribe, the movement has set up voter registration tables on campus and in university buildings. The goal: ten thousand new voters. Since students can register at their college addresses, and since California no longer has a residency requirement, chances of meeting the goal seem excellent. At last count, Berkeley had eight thousand new student voters.

Given the condition of Berkeley party politics, eight thousand may be enough. The ultra-liberal Berkeley Democratic Caucus will support no centrist candidate and is likely to back the radicals. There is a split as deep as the San Andreas fault between liberal and conservative Republicans. The April 6 Movement seems the only unified political group in Berkeley today.

This is our chance to gain control of the Berkeley city government," reads a Movement pamphlet. A pipe dream? Not at all. As the radicals correctly point out: "It was the voter registration drive that won for Ron Dellums last November, and we can do it again."

The Neighbors

By George Clark



"Now you point out what you'd like and I'll point out what we can afford."