

Monday's Commentary

How you can help refugees feel at home tinkering around

by LOUISE OKRUTSKY

At a time when we're thinking more about Iran and the Russians and enjoying it less, John Rennels hopes we can spare a few moments and thoughts for the plight of Indochinese refugees.

Rennels, chairman and lawyer for the Northwest Inter-Faith Center for Racial Justice is working with a group of former refugees who belong to the Linh Son Pagoda in Detroit. The program involves refugees helping other refugees to leave the internment camps in Southeast Asia and resettle here.

To settle into a new culture, strange language and bewildering customs takes a good deal of determination and desperation. Trying to understand a culture which can support the likes of Mark and Mindy as well as Leonard Bernstein and Martin Luther King can stymie the natives as well as its adopted residents.

The Indochinese persons who come

to this country trying to find another home need help to guide them through the maze of social services, legal transactions and just plain confusion that accompanies resettlement by anyone, anywhere.

It can also lead to some problems, when two cultures meet, greet and misunderstand each other.

"It can be a disaster when one family takes care of a family of refugees," said Rennels.

"OR WHEN A church group doesn't work real hard for independence."

He can tell stories of people misunderstanding each other while really trying to do good. One church group set up a family with a home and food. The group wanted to provide for the family while they settled into a new life. The family, through other refugees learned that they were eligible for all sorts of government assistance while they got

back on their feet. When they applied for aid, the church group became upset and hurt.

In spite of a few rocky moments, there are about 6,000 Vietnamese refugees in Michigan who stand as testimony to groups within this state.

Now, there are about 50 families in the Detroit-pagoda who want to help others who are faced with the same problems they faced a few years ago.

Those problems include finding a new job. Professionals who practiced in their old country relocate here to discover they must rebuild too. One Vietnamese lawyer decided to study

for an engineering degree. Another lawyer is studying to be an architect.

Not many persons would relish that kind of upheaval. But many refugees can struggle through another education because each family member helps the other out, according to Rennels.

THIS DOESN'T make them much different from many waves of refugees who came here.

They face problems with understanding leases and dealing with landlords. Children of family members who haven't managed to get to the United States are taken care of by aunts, un-

cles, cousins as if they were part of the immediate family.

But to make that guardianship legal in the U.S., there are papers to sign and legal proceedings to adhere to. If children are here, the papers needed to be signed might not get through to the parents in Southeast Asia. Legal proceedings become even further tangled by the international situation.

Having lived through these problems and with the help of the Michigan Department of Social Services Indochinese Resettlement Program, the families who belong to the pagoda are

trying to help other refugees.

About \$2,000 is needed to help a family resettle here. That sum includes rent, food, housing and medical needs.

Rennels and the members of the pagoda are asking the rest of us to lend them a hand by adding whatever we can to the coffers. Those who donate money will receive a series of updates on the families and how the funds were used. A separate account has been set up to handle the funds.

WE LIKE to think that helping others is an American tradition. Generosity may not be the sole property of this nation, but we can do a little to prove we perhaps have acquired a few special insights into the matter. Checks should be made out to the Linh Son Pagoda and sent to the Northwest Inter-Faith Center for Racial Justice, 22123 Grand River, Detroit, 48219.

from our readers

Judge's impartiality questioned

Editor:

We greatly appreciate Steve Barnaby's past editorial support for the Equal Rights Amendment. However, we feel his contention that Judge Marion Callister, a Mormon, should not be disqualified from an ERA case is based on insufficient information.

ERA opponents brought suit, in the summer of 1979, to invalidate the ERA time extension. A decision in their favor would give state Legislatures an excuse not to vote on ERA in 1980.

The case is before Federal District Judge Marion Callister, who was a regional representative for the Mormon Church. George Romney, who referred to many ERA supporters as "moral perverts," holds the same position. Regional representatives report directly to Mormon President Spencer Kimball. This is the equivalent of an archbishop who reports to the pope.

ERA supporters sought to have Judge Callister removed from this case, not because of his religion, but because of his position in the Mormon priesthood. Editorials across the country have urged Callister to step aside.

Public pressure may have caused the Mormon hierarchy to relieve Callister of his church duties. This was announced by the Church January 1980. No replacement has been publicly named at this time.

Callister's removal from church duties is merely cosmetic. No doubt the hierarchy wants to diffuse opposition. The fact remains that Callister was part of the policy-making body. The Mormon Church opposes ERA and officially testified against the ERA time extension in Congress. Callister's former position required him to instruct others in church beliefs.

It is unfair to compare Callister with President John Kennedy or Supreme Court Justice William Brennan. Neither of them held high positions in the hierarchy of their church.

We believe judges of any faith are capable of separating law from their personal religious beliefs. However, it is absurd to believe that any judge who held as high a rank as Callister would

not be influenced by the position of his church.

In addition, the ex-communication of Sonia Johnson and other Mormon women casts a chilling blow at Callister's ability to be impartial on this issue. If his decision differed with the church, would he be ex-communicated?

The judge has already raised questions about his impartiality. He has denied the National Organization for Women the right to intervene as defendants, even though NOW initiated and led the drive that resulted in the ERA time extension. Instead, he has relegated NOW to Friend of the Court status which does not permit them to raise significant issues.

Callister has also refused to allow U.S. Rep. Don Edwards and 78 other

members of Congress to intervene on the defendants' side. This case is directly concerned with Congress' power under Article V of the Constitution.

On the other hand, Callister has allowed four Washington state legislators to intervene on the plaintiff side.

The test for disqualifying a judge is whether a reasonable person would infer that a judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned. The appearance of impartiality is as important as the fact.

The high position Judge Callister holds in church that opposes the issue he is judging and, his questionable preliminary actions give no appearance of impartiality. That is why ERA supporters are urging that he step aside or be disqualified.

LAURA CARTER CALLOW,
Co-chair, Michigan ERAmerica

Councilman criticizes the Crackerbarrel

Editor:

I have to admit that sometimes I enjoy reading your editorials. However, by all modest standards, your philosophy has the same effect as "eating spoiled turkey" — three days after Thanksgiving.

I have always believed in the sacred principle of a free press. But that principle implies responsible press as well. Based on the past four years, I am convinced that the word responsible is listed under dirty words in your Crackerbarrel.

I also doubt that another simple word, informed, can be found in your famous barrel.

You see, I speak from firsthand knowledge. I happen to know you well. By all modest standards, your philosophy is nothing less than radical and sometimes stupid.

It is the extreme of the same philosophy and illogical thinking and policies that brought this country down to its knees.

Before your co-thinkers moved into and dominated the U.S. Congress for the last 26 years, phrases such as "America Held Hostage" would have never, ever existed.

No Ayatollah on the face of the earth would have dared to challenge the giant of the free world.

Too bad, thanks to you and to your co-thinkers, the great giant is sick — he has brain cancer.

In your Crackerbarrel Debate of Monday, Jan. 21, 1980, you showed your true character: loud mouth, but no facts.

It was the old legislative body that voted to kill the senior housing project, not the new council. This was the first misstatement. You said it was the new council.

• You blame a possible rise in property taxes on shortsighted council action re. IRO. Either you were asleep or you just weren't listening. The agreement presented between 60-foot-high buildings and 50-foot-high buildings just didn't hold water. Furthermore, the postal under question was just a lousy 200 cars.

So where is the justification for the radical change. The chairman of the IEDC expected a rubber stamp that he didn't get. You should applaud the council for that.

• Regarding RCE-1 zone which allows 60-foot-high buildings for the elderly — for the past two years this ordinance was applied once. Interesting enough by the same person who helped write the ordinance on Freedom and Drake last March, but they killed the idea because of economics problems.

Everytime RCE-1 was tested, it proved to be a bad ordinance. It just wasn't practical.

Regarding the instructions to the Planning Commission to kill RCE-1, here, your misinformed journalism stands out. Don't you know that by statute the council is required to send the matter to the Planning Commission for public hearing.

I agree with you, it is stupid to waste all this time and energy on nonsensical public hearing, but don't blame me, I didn't write the statute or the law.

Finally, you not considering taking a course in telling the truth. Your editorials will fare better. Your life certainly will be enhanced — God also will love you — and also the rest of us. Recall the commandment: thou shall not lie.

JOE ALKATEEB,
Farmington Hills councilman

Community center thanks volunteers

Editor:

On behalf of the Farmington Community Center, I would like to publicly thank the many people who have participated in the recent bottle and can drive.

A very special thanks goes to chairman Terry Sever and the Jaycees for their numerous hours and endless enthusiasm; to many friends who came to drive, pick-up and sort the returnable containers; and to the people who so willingly gave their bottles and cans for this fund-raising event.

The center was given not to the cities but to the people residing in the area. It

belongs to them. It depends on them. Many people use the center for classes, activities and special events. They appreciate the house and its historical past, the friendly atmosphere and the spacious grounds.

For people who use the center, no one needs to explain how it enriches their lives. These people know it is an asset to their community.

Groups such as the Jaycees and their many willing helpers have shown their support and we are extremely thankful.

BETTY PAINE,
Farmington Community Center

That tower is an 'Eiffel'

Having had nearly five years of French grammar, French composition and French conversation drummed into me, you'd think I could parlez with the best of them.

Not so.

It's a truism that languages were simply not taught with the emphasis on conversation when I was plodding through high school. I can still recall taking down recipes for "pommes Souffles," a kind of puffly fried potato. But I can't verbalize in French.

Ironically, husband Jack and I still managed to enjoy two brief days in Paris with a group of big movers in the Israel Bond program.

In just two days, we couldn't see it all. We missed visiting the Louvre (closed on Tuesdays), Versailles and climbing the Eiffel Tower.

Still, we rode down the Champs Elysees, trodded through shops with famous names on them, had dinner in the Conciergerie (more about that), visited a French home, saw the Eiffel Tower and visited the infamous parade ground at L'Ecole Militaire where Alfred Dreyfus suffered degradation.

ALFRED DREYFUS, if you don't recall, was the principal figure in an historic drama at the beginning of this century.

A career army man in France, he was more the military person, more the Frenchman than the Jew. But he was born a Jew. When the French army needed a fall guy, having discovered espionage involving Germany, they manufactured a case against Dreyfus.

He was stripped of his military rank and honors and paraded on the outdoor grounds of the military school. And he was sent to the infamous Devil's Island. The Dreyfus affair aroused great anti-Semitism in France and a great reaction from people all over the world who believed Dreyfus had been wronged.

Two characters in the drama were Emile Zola who wrote "J'Accuse," a famous work about the case, and a then unknown journalist, who watched Dreyfus' degradation at L'Ecole Militaire.

The journalist, a non-practicing Jew himself, was quite moved by the plight of his fellow co-religionist. He became convinced that Jewish people should have a country of their own.

Theodore Herzl was his name. He also produced a lasting document, "Judenstaat," a blueprint for a Jewish state, a dream which became a reality with the birth of the state of Israel.

MORE THAN 10 years ago, I spent several months of intense study on the Dreyfus Affair while working and researching for a master's degree in history.

I didn't expect to unearth new theories on the case, but I did enhance my own knowledge of 20th century Jewish history.

What I found doing research on three Jews — Dreyfus, Herzl and Bernard Lazare, another journalist turned Zionist — was that Dreyfus is a symbol and not a hero.

My paper followed the exploits of three men from their beginnings and through the Dreyfus Affair. I concluded that Herzl and Lazare had been much more affected by the case than Dreyfus himself.

Herzl wrote his treatise and became



Shirlee Iden

the founder of modern Zionism. Lazare labored long and hard to free Dreyfus and became a staunch Zionist.

As for Alfred Dreyfus, released from Devil's Island and later exonerated completely, he simply returned to the French army where he served honorably in World War I. His consciousness as a Jew was hardly raised.

Nothing impressed me as much as walking around the grounds of L'Ecole Militaire that sunny cold day in Paris. The scene of the degradation came into focus mentally and I could almost see the diminutive French Jew marching around, being hissed and shouted at, shocked and bewildered at the ordeal.

HAVING DINNER in a famous prison, Le Conciergerie, was also unforgettable. But Jack and I figured, if it

was good enough for Baron Alain de Rothschild, we could get through it.

The Baron was one of the hundreds of guests that night at a lavish bond dinner held in the hallowed halls where Marie Antoinette once awaited her execution.

A large room of arches and stone, it had no carpets or wall hangings and was chilly. But the French hosts and European visitors made the American bond group feel warmly welcome.

We dined on canard L'orange (duck) and French champagne. I got the impression the Jews of France have an intense awareness of past indiscretions of their people toward Jews and Israel. Because they can't forget the Dreyfus Affair, and others, they don't waver in their support of Israel today.



Off the Walls

Nancy Walls Smith

The cover up

Make-up has always been a mystery to me. Oh, I use enough of it. Having what one could call a "ruddy" complexion, I figure the more I cover it up, the better off we all are.

But when it comes to the subtleties of blushes, creams, or lip gloss, I am completely out of my element.

Back when I was 13 years old, I started what I felt to be a suitable morning make-up routine. Twenty years later, I'm still using my old reliable black eyeliner and the same shade of white lipstick.

That's why it came as no surprise when a good friend asked if she could give me a complete make-up makeover. Some people just can't resist a challenge — especially a hopeless one. I figured if I was brave enough to ask to see me without any make-up, I could work up the courage to let her.

Our session started with a discussion of my facial "problems." Aside from my poor complexion, I was also informed that my eyes are very small and they have pouches over them. This was very depressing news. I didn't know I had pouches. I don't even like the word. To hear that I have them over my eyes is most distressing indeed.

To be honest though, aside from having to hear an itemization of my flaws, I found the whole session to be quite pleasant. I felt like a lady of leisure and wealth relaxing while my friend worked busily away on my epidermis. I began to daydream lazily until I real-

ized she was jabbing at my cheeks with her index fingers. This seemed to me a strange way to get my attention. "What are you doing?" I wondered. "I'm trying to find your cheekbones," was the logical reply. In 33 years I've never thought to look for them, so I could understand why she was having problems. Realizing the futility of her search, she asked me to suck in my cheeks while she applied blush where my cheekbones would have been if I had some.

Twelve layers of make-up later, with eyes looking bigger and cheeks looking bonier we came to the final touch. Lipstick. Having been told several times that I have rather "full" lips, I have always made them as light as possible in the hopes that no one would accuse me of being "flippy." It has been harder and harder over the years to find the white lipstick required for this task, as the cyanotic look has been out of fashion for quite a while.

My friend suggested I switch to the darker, brighter colors of lipstick. Colors to accent the sensual fullness of my mouth. Well, since she put it like that

... Looking in the mirror, I couldn't decide if I looked more like Betty Boop or a dance hall girl. I had the distinct feeling there was a room full of cowboys out the saloon waiting to hear me sing. Red lips and pink cheeks! I felt like a flapper!

My friend assured me I looked "rav-

Resident grateful

Editor:

I would like to thank the police and emergency personnel who were so helpful to me and my son when his school bus was involved in an accident in Ramblewood Subdivision.

They were extremely thoughtful and did everything they could to see that everyone received attention.

MARY ANN SENKOWSKI,
Farmington Hills

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