

Plymouth Parade Loses Meaning

A group of Plymouth residents has requested permission to march in the Fourth of July parade to protest the current United States policy in Vietnam.

The Jaycees, who run the parade, have told them no. And, as will, the City Commission turned down a request from the same group to march through the city after the parade.

"We have always left the city fathers explained," the Jaycees leaders say if they let all groups in, thus involving themselves in politics.

So Plymouth's annual July 4 celebration will include the same things as years past — bands, horses, floats, fire engines, fireworks, a clown, an air show, and even a beer garden.

None of these things is even remotely as important to a real celebration of Independence Day as the request from the group that wants to parade in protest of the war.

The right to express an opinion in a peaceful, orderly manner is what July 4th was — and still is — all about. While the fire engines and fireworks lend a festive air, they are merely symbols of a struggle to be free.

They are not July 4th itself.

People seeking to express their opinion — be it a political candidate, or a group protesting the war — belong in our July Fourth celebration, too.

To exclude them is to say we care more about fireworks and a good time on July 4.

To include them is to say we are big enough to hear and see all sides. That, if I remember right, is what July 4th — and this country — is all about.

—Doug Johnson

Chief Justice Warren's Legacy

From the 1954 school de-segregation case:

Today, education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments. Compulsory school attendance laws and the great expenditures for education both demonstrate our recognition of the importance of education to our democratic society. It is required in the performance of our most basic public responsibilities, even service in the armed forces. It is the very foundation of good citizenship.

Today it is the principal instrument in awakening the child to cultural values, in preparing him for later professional training, and in helping him to adjust normally to his environment. In these days, it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education.

To separate them from others of similar age and qualifications solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone.

We conclude that in the field of public education, the doctrine of "separate, but equal" has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.

In the 1968 decision upholding "stop-and-frisk," Warren conceded that police might use their power to harass Negroes, but he noted that bad police-citizen relations couldn't be solved by rules handed down in advance from the Supreme Court.

CHIEF JUSTICE Earl Warren, 77, last week submitted his resignation to President Johnson effective at the end of the current U.S. Supreme Court term.

Sense And Nonsense

"It's not that I can't spell," said the summa cum laude chap. "It's just that I'm a lousy typist."

Hooray for the better breeding of horses. Since the race is all one color, the state gave the tracks a half-million dollars, as far as the better breeding of other race, the legislators contributed \$5,000 for housing.

Prince Charles was just tapped for the Order of the Garter. We don't SUPPHOSE he'll wear it every day.

Some newsmen covering the court could never remember Warren's ever citing a case, a precedent, a past ruling during his questioning of a lawyer. But he would frequently interrupt a lawyer with this demand:

Yes, yes — but were you fair?

From the Publisher's Desk OBSERVATION POINT

By Philip H. Power

Let us forget politics for a minute or two and chat a bit about humanity.

And about a very human guy, Senator Philip A. Hart whose thoughts about the mania we live in are deep and sensible. Later, we'll let Phil have a word.

Phil Hart hurts.

Nobody ever heard him complain about the wounded hand that still throbs after a day of handshaking on campaign. He got it on D-Day at Omaha Beach in the infantry.

He hurts rather for people and the way the world is and he hurts in fear of what it might become.

Phil started in state government as Corporations and Securities commissioner, was U.S. district attorney in Detroit for a spell, then signed on with former Gov. Williams as his legal advisor.

He was twice lieutenant governor under Williams before he ran for the U.S. Senate and won. He's been there since 1959.

So when Phil Hart addresses himself to the doomsday prospects of an anti-ballistic missile race, let's listen.

"ONE OF THE MILDLY insane practicalities of life on modern earth is that peace between its two greatest powers has depended heavily on the sure knowledge that each can destroy the other."

"Having two men in a room with hair-triggered shotguns pointed at each other is about the most workable substitute for brotherhood that we have ever been able to find."

"The Russians' security depends on the certainty that we could not strike them with atomic missiles without being mortally clobbered ourselves and our security rests on precisely the same knowledge about the Russians."

"The nuclear arms race slowed down once both nations were convinced that they had more than enough missiles to destroy their principal adversary. At that point, there is no real reward for getting ahead. The arms race gets cranked up again only if one nation becomes a little unsure of its ability to completely knock out the other."

"The United States, for example, was momentarily concerned when the Russians ringed Moscow with a limited anti-ballistic missile defense. But this fear diminished with the development of our MIRV, a missile that separates into multiple warheads as it approaches its goal — thus giving the defense more incoming targets than it can manage."

"NOW THE U.S. military is proposing that we build a 'thin' anti-ballistic missile (ABM) system at a cost of \$5 billion. It would consist of a system that would quickly detect incoming missiles with radar and then send nuclear-armed missiles to intercept them."

"This 'thin' ABM would not provide enough missiles to stop Russia's heavy arsenal but the military claims it could defend us from Red China during that period when the Chinese have only a small number of operational offensive missiles."

"The theory is that China, during the time when her missile force is small and vulnerable, might be especially reckless out of an eagerness to strike first 'in any conflict,' says Hart."

"But the arguments against a 'thin' ABM defense are a mass of them."

"1. The \$5 billion would only offer protection against China for a limited time. Missiles, once in production, multiply rapidly and a thin ABM system might offer effective protection for as little as two years."

"2. There is reasonable doubt that the 'Sentinel' system would work very well."

"3. Reliable intelligence reports indicate that the Chinese have fallen behind schedule in their efforts to develop an intercontinental missile."

"4. Even if the Russians understand that we are arming against a Chinese attack, they would be nervous about the diminishing effect our ABM could have on their own striking force and react to neutralize our advantage by improving their missile fleet or by building up their own ABM system."

"5. A 'thin' ABM system on our part will lead to pressures for a 'thick' (\$45 billion) ABM defense."

"WHAT WE MUST weigh then is the temporary protection the proposed system would offer against the possibility of a new arms race that would be bound to end in a tie — but only after Russia and the United States had expended great sums of money."

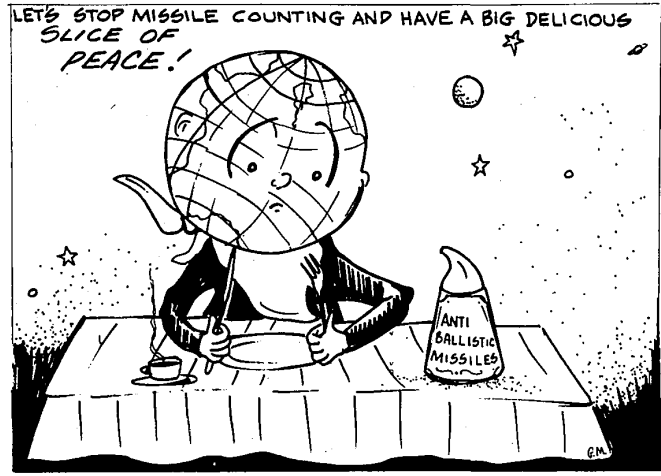
"The administration's decision to go ahead with the ABM was, I fear, based at least partly on the political desire to head off any campaign year criticism about a 'missile gap' — an issue with a substantial history of success."

"The first congressional test for the ABM system comes later this month when the Senate will be asked to authorize the first-step expenditure of \$227 million."

"There are many who have serious doubts about its wisdom, and I intend to join in a battle to have the authorization postponed, at least for a year."

"As long as Chinese missile development has been delayed, the antidote should be likewise postponed."

"It seems to me that the world can have reason to be grateful for every extra month that the United States and Russia can be limited to one shotgun apiece."



This Is The Week That...

...By Don Hoenshell

Will Rogers used to say that Oklahomans would vote dry as long as they could stagger to the polls.

They got that way by drinking wet.

In Houston you can get a free membership in a private club and put down martinis the clock around.

You can, that is, if you have a lead tummy and a seeing eye dog.

IT BRINGS US BACK to wet Michigan where last week the Legislature didn't quite make a decision. The question was opening the bars on Sunday to attract conventions.

This is an election year, and legislators are confused over whether more folks go to church or want to go to saloons on Sunday. They could ask their clergymen. They know.

"I'd turn over the parish receipts for the liquor bill of the parishioners sight unseen and without an audit," one priest mused a few years back. "We'd never have to throw another ice cream social."

But let us not digress, fellow.

The Legislature courageously turned the whole issue over to county boards of supervisors. If the boards vote it for their counties, fine. If not, they can put it on the ballot.

In other words, if the heat gets a bit much for the supervisors, they can put it all back on the voters.

Brotherhood like that brings a tear to the eye.

THE LEGISLATURE said that even then the Sunday liquor license would be restricted to "establishments which derive more than half their gross receipts from the sale of food."

The fine economics of the business indicates that booze is always the bread and butter (you should excuse the expression), and the food is the loss leader. Sunday sales would start at 2 p.m.

Bars should be able to stay open on Sunday despite the strange arguments in its favor. If Detroit needs booze on Sunday to help its convention economy, it's in worse shape than anybody thought.

The same legislators who voted against open housing on the argument you can't legislate morals, voted against Sunday liquor because they contend you can. The Michigan Temperance Foundation has a very strong lobby.

THERE WAS THIS business about Livonia lifting the Shaggy Lion's entertainment license because it had go-go girls. The rebuttal here was if you don't want to see 'em, don't go.

Same with Sunday liquor. If you don't like it, don't.

There were speeches about the moral tone of the community, of the Biblical command to keep the Sabbath holy. So stay home from the ball game and the lake and meditate.

Traffic accidents? The only places likely to meet the food income restrictions are downtown hotels — if THEY can. Convention goers travel either in cabs or on their hands and knees. Scratch that argument.

The real beneficiaries? The legislators, themselves, because Lobbyist Bob Hammond will now have to spread himself over 83 counties to slay his very own dragon before the boards of supervisors.

Now they can raise their glasses to toast Hammond and mean it.

Westland Judge Has Creativity

The branch of government which people pay the least attention to is the judiciary branch. But in Westland, Municipal Judge Thomas G. Smith has been in office for only four months but has offered a large degree of creative thinking and programs for the court which have long been missing.

In the short time he has been in office, the freshman jurist has opened a night court for traffic violators and others who can't make it to court in the daytime; proposed a Family-Neighborhood Relations Bureau, designed to keep family and block quarrels out of the public courtroom atmosphere; and posted a "Bill of Rights" for defendants outside the courtroom entrance so that persons may know exactly what their rights are before unintentionally forfeiting any of these rights.

Westland can look to some imagination in its court and the community is better off for it.

—Leonard Poger

Our Own Grafitti



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