

Hippies, Birchites Seek Easy Answers

What do you think of the hippies?

The question was a little bit startling because it didn't seem to follow the trend of the conversation and the fact that it had been put to us with remarkable frequency.

Maybe with all this in mind it's time for a bit of thinking in print about the hippie phenomenon. By this we mean the more peaceful corner of the hippies—the flower children.

THE STOCK ANSWER is that maybe the hippies are smarter than all the rest of us combined.

Generally speaking the hippies are a reasonably fortunate lot. They manage to exist with their simple wants met and they have avoided the nine to five rat race pace of the ordinary citizen.

The elder generation decries them and moans about "What is the younger generation coming to?"

At the opening session of the Farmington Town Hall series not too long ago the ladies asked Hildegarde what she thought of the hippies.

The young entertainer, who has been around for so many years, said:

"Those poor souls. Let's hope this is just a phase—it makes us look awful in the eyes of the world."

Rubbish! That type of an answer.

WHY HAVE the hippies grown so in strength?

Maybe the answer is that the government provides a simple answer in theory—love for all—to the very complex pressing problems of society.

The acceptance of the hippies by the young is very similar to the adult acceptance of the extremist movement of the John Birch Society.

Not every adult has rushed out to join the local chapter of the Birch Society, but the comment is often heard that the Society has some good ideas.

These comments come from the "older" generation.

The same thing happens with the youth. They don't all run away from home to become hippies, but they are certainly interested in the movement.

IT'S EXTREMELY difficult to be a kid today. Sitting in this corner at the ripe old age of 28, this writer can say she wouldn't want to be a teenager now.

The pressures are too great. Marks, college, all the talk about the changing patterns of morals and family life... they all have an effect.

"**THE OLDER**" generation is also reacting to the increasing pressures of society. At this level though they have different terms—job, status, paying the bills, etc.

Add to all the local type of pressures a very nagging war in the far-away corner of the world that no one seems to know how to cope with.

With all this in mind is it any wonder that organizations providing simple answers to complex problems stir a responsive chord in the hearts of the people?

We don't think so.

—Sue Shaughnessy

This Is The Week That

... By Don Hoenshell

Richard M. Nixon wears blue slacker neckties, usually very with white polka dots.

He flicks his even-set deep eyes at the oncomer and shakes his hands with a soft pulling pressure. In small rooms, you could run into the wall.

Nixon talks with polish and ease and knows at least the jargon of public issues. When uncertain, he can fill a reporter's notebook with words that do not connect.

In 1960 as the GOP nominee against John F. Kennedy, he devoted Maudlin Thursday, the Day the Pony Died, improved upon the family situation comedy on TV and proved that man is dog's best friend.

So figure him against Romney in New Hampshire.

ROMNEY DRESSES like every millionaire businessman would like to, shakes hands like he wants to Indian wrestle; and if you are a whimsical critic, he will grab your shoulder and debate. You pick the subject.

Romney speaks to those people in a delicious shorthand, connecting slogans and phrases from earlier speeches with dashes and commas. Hardly ever a semicolon.

And Romney is a creative campaigner. He could don an Indian headdress and still score. To anybody's knowledge, he hasn't kissed a baby that belonged to somebody else.

Nixon has political enemies from his campaign in California for Congress against Helen Gahagan Douglas. Even now they hate him, but can't remember why.

During his vicepresidency with Eisenhower, Nixon had just the proper piety during the heart attack and the other illness in Denver.

He lost by an eyelash to JFK, an election Republicans still contend was stolen from Nixon in Cook County by Chicago's Mayor Daley, and lost again to Democrat Pat Brown for the governorship of California.

So figure Romney and Nixon in New Hampshire.

LAST TIME OUT for Nixon there, he lost to Henry Cabot Lodge, then in the Far East as an ambassador who was a write-in candidate.

During the campaign, reporters were kept away from himself. When it started, the fellows in the Nixon press entourage were pro-Nixon. When it ended, they were pro-Kennedy.

There is the feeling that Nixon is a political chameleon who fits his mood and approach to his audience. It's not wrong, but it's off-keen when everybody knows it, since few people have.

The feeling here is that Romney will win over Nixon in New Hampshire, have a tougher time in Wisconsin—though provincial loyalties are thicker than blood in politics—and then dive on his chin at some point before the national convention.

If it doesn't happen that way, stop believing in neckties and go out and kick a beagle.

Sense And Nonsense

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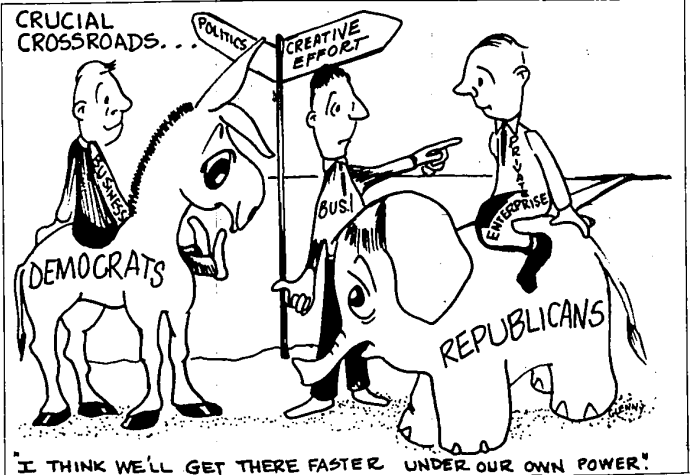
From the Publisher's Desk OBSERVATION POINT

By Philip H. Power

One of the nice things about our political folklore is that much of it is conveniently inaccurate. For example, readers of this column will remember that some months ago we argued that the real difference between Republicans and Democrats is that the former drink imported beer by the bottle whilst the latter consumed Stroh's by the quart.

Inaccurate in detail, sure; but a convenient way of expressing a symbol of some of the deep differences between the parties.

NOW COMES another piece of folklore which wends its way through our political discourse like (please forgive me, proof-



'I THINK WE'LL GET THERE FASTER UNDER OUR OWN POWER.'

'Open Housing'

Two words guaranteed to stir a heated debate in any bar, living room, or street corner in the suburbs are "Open Housing."

Plymouth City Commissioners are going through the agonies of formulating, considering, and finally acting on a local housing ordinance.

The Detroit Common Council is doing the same and the State Legislature is politicking with a state fair housing bill.

The open housing debate across the state, and in most parts of the country, recalls the comments made when the U.S. Congress was considering federal civil rights bills in the 1950's and early 1960's.

"You can't legislate morality," civil rights opponents said.

BUT THEIR colleagues in state legislatures went right ahead and passed laws on rape, murder, adultery, and prostitution.

In all of the heated words on open housing in suburban Detroit, there has been a nearly-deafening silence on the subject in most of the communities serviced by the Observer newspapers, except in Plymouth.

With the exception of Westland, the communities of Garden City, Livonia, Redford Township, and Farmington are lily-white suburbs whose residents (or at least most of them) want to keep their towns exactly that way.

One Garden City mother told this writer, who wanted to know what all the objections were based on: "Wait until you have a daughter of your own."

The inference was obvious but the tone of her voice was changed at least one iota when it was pointed out that the lily-white suburbs have a crime rate increase even higher than the large urbanized regions.

On top of that, the Secretary of State's daughter married a person of another race although they didn't live in the same neighborhood.

THE PROBLEMS of "Negro-Crime" and "Negro Immorality" continually echoed by white adults has an empty ring when one looks at the headlines in the Garden City and Westland Observers in recent months.

Open housing to keep Negroes out? Maybe we should have a "closed housing" bill to screen some of the Caucasian element to keep our streets safe.

—Leonard Poger

Bow-Wow! Here Comes Integration

Frequently in suburbia, someone asks you, "Would you want one of THEM living on your block?" or "Don't you think THEY would be unhappy in this neighborhood?"

Meaning, of course, the dark-skinned race.

Well, I can't speak for the whole neighborhood, but I'd say that how I would react, and whether a Negro family would be happy, would depend on whether they have a dog.

The entire world consists of two classes of people. No, not men and women—for there are individuals who cross over in behavior. No, not colored and white—for there are people of mixed race and of races that are not clearly in any category. No, not communists and capitalists either.

Rather, the two distinct classes in the world are doggy people and non-doggy people.

OURS HAPPENS TO BE mostly a doggy people neighborhood. Non-doggy people are unhappy around dogs. It is a statistical fact that the neighborhood dog shrubs of a non-doggy home to use as a communal latrine. Ironically, in a doggy neighborhood, if you want to keep your lawn clean, you should get a dog.

Moreover, non-doggy people are uncomfortable around dogs, and dogs are uncomfortable around them. This is not to criticize anyone. It's just a fact of life.

After examining many plans for segregation and their rationalizations, I conclude firmly that only one makes any scientific sense: Doggy people should have their neighborhoods, and non-doggy people theirs.

This is not a snobbish plan aimed at creating second-class citizenship for non-doggy people. Non-doggy people are entitled to their style of life, and I respect it. The notion that "every child should have a puppy" is hogwash. If you'll pardon the mixed metaphor, Non-doggy people shouldn't have dogs, and shouldn't have others' dogs inflicted on them.

lengths to keep government out of everything and that private enterprise is at bottom the only salvation for society.

Put another way, it's a case of "Business, Si; government, No" opposed to "Government, Si; business, No."

It's nice to see that both generalizations have recently been shown inaccurate by the very people most prone to use them.

TAKE FIRST THE Republicans and their supposed feelings about the evil of government and the good of business.

Governor Romney's biggest problem just now is to show conclusively that he's been so great a governor of Michigan that his fairly obvious deficiencies on the national and international front won't hinder his drive to get the Republican presidential nomination. The big problem in Michigan since the Detroit riots has been the racial question.

So how does Romney handle it? By putting the bite on the Legislature to pass an open housing law. Which is the same thing as asking the government to take action in an area which private enterprise has had some troubles.

Oddly, it's the Democrats (or at least some of them, including some legislators from Observerland) who are trying to duck government involvement on this one. Some of them even sound like Republicans, saying that government really ought not get involved in private property questions.

DEMOCRATIC folklore has been recently shown to be just as wrong with respect to big business.

The New Detroit Committee, composed and sparked mainly by the big Detroit-based businesses, has been about the only really creative thing to come out of the riots. The Committee has been twisting arms all over the lot in an attempt to solve some of the problems that led to Detroit's looking like a World War II battlefield. In fact, most post-riot government work has looked stale by comparison.

But even more imaginative have been certain big companies and in particular the Michigan Bell Telephone Company.

NOW I'M NO fan of Michigan Bell. I got sore when they tried to can me into buying those pink Princess phones. I am convinced their billing system is fouled up. And I froth at the mouth with that "brown man of spindles or mutilate" bit they put on their computer card bills.

But their newly-announced program to adopt Northern High School, an almost entirely Negro school in the inner city, to bring the kids special training to help them get solid jobs when they graduate, has gone a long way to change my mind.

Briefly, the program involves the Michigan Bell people coming into the school to teach courses both about how to go about getting and keeping a job and about the specifics of possible jobs with the phone company. Electronics. Telephone technology. Little wires and where they go. That kind of stuff.

The company says it hopes other businesses will follow along. I hope so, too.

WHAT THE COMPANY is really testing in this program is whether there is room for effective and creative effort by private enterprise in solving an intense social problem. This does not sound like a selfish business to me; after all, the phone company didn't have to do it.

But they did decide to do something, and something that will have a direct impact on helping Negro kids become a part of society instead of a bunch of angry onlookers.

Folklore goes down the drain, yet again.

And it's a good thing.



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