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DAYTON DAILY NEWS
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Now you see Moro, now you don't; isn't this a swell game?

Aldo Moro has been killed. He hasn't been killed. His body is in a lake. No, it isn't. That's the body of some poor shepherd who had a nervous breakdown months ago and either jumped or blundered into the water. Isn't that a joke? The shepherd wasn't even an important man. But Moro *has* been "sentenced" and *will* be killed.

So the Red Brigade, a tiny skulk of mostly middle-class youths with a messianic craze to save Italy from their likes, plays with a man's life. The Red Brigade is believed to have murdered, oh, about nine persons so far this year. Isn't it odd that so many such groups, which swear they care utterly about abstract life, don't give a snap about actual lives?

The Red Brigade says it is struggling for the "freedom of the proletariat," but that is a con — though not on the Italian public, which knows perfectly well that no one is more appalled than the "proletarians" by these killings in their name.

The con is on the Red Brigade. If what they are for is good — and who could argue that freedom for the proletariat is not? — then what they do must be good. It is a perfect, closed-loop system of illogic, in the service of the Brigade's only essential cause, self-exoneration. It allows them to continue.

Continue, for instance, with the Moro entertainment, a kind of political light show, very hip, in which they occasionally flash the image of their prisoner on the Italian public, like spraying a motion picture on the crowd instead of the screen. It's all your fault, folks, for being the audience at a show you never bought a ticket for.

It is clear why they picked Moro. By common consent, he is a good man, humane and honest. He has given his life over to trying to solve Italy's difficult political, social and economic problems. He is just the sort a Red Brigade fears most. To any degree he might make things better, he would frustrate their goodness. His very example holds out the possibility that the Red Brigade just might not be essential.

If there is anything an absolute ideology hates it is humanity. Ideology plays by important rules of its own making. Humanity milks around the game board on its own. It won't stand in the boxes. It won't follow the lines. It balks, meanders, cavorts. It is an embarrassment to the game. It won't let the player win.

So humanity has to be stopped, and Moro is good start. It is unfair to the players when the pieces start trying.

Dirty air for three more years?

Gov. James Rhodes and the Ohio House want Ohioans to suffer three more years of sulfur-poisoned air because cleaning it up might threaten the state's coal industry.

At that industry's behest, the governor called for a three-year moratorium on federal clean air standards and the House passed a resolution to that effect without hearings and on the same day it was introduced. Here's hoping the Senate won't be panicked by the miners' scare tactics and will remember the lungs of the rest of us.

The clean-up won't do long-term economic damage if the state presses hard for industries and utilities to install the technology to eliminate the sulfur that infects most Ohio coal. Ohioans can have both healthy air and a healthy coal industry.

It has been plain for years, certainly since Gov. Rhodes returned to office in 1975, that industry either would have to burn cleaner out-of-state coal or install anti-pollution equipment. Instead of pushing industry to install that equipment, the state has joined in utilities' efforts to fight the clean air regulations that would protect property, crops and human health.

Now the governor calls the federal regulations "unrealistic" and says the feds want them put into effect "overnight." But the standards are generally accepted by experts and were reaffirmed by the 6th U.S. District Court this year. Under the law, they should have been put into effect in 1975. The current deadline is July 1, 1979.

The feds ought to continue to push for it, realizing full well that when July 1, 1979 rolls around some few coal burners might legitimately have reasons why they are not yet fully clean and might deserve a reprieve.

But to move the deadline back again would simply lengthen the process and put off the day when the air is finally relatively safe to breathe.

The governor and the House want to do a favor for the coal industry (which itself might have worked harder on ways of burning its dirty product cleanly) and for utilities and other industries. The rest of us, whose lungs are being ravaged by sulfur, apparently don't count.

Group homes

Dayton City Commission had little choice but to admit that the city had not been enforcing its group home ordinance and promise to start doing so — but without shutting down group homes now said to violate zoning codes. The Law Department has been instructed to see if existing homes can't be kept.

These boarding homes are for persons, particularly former mental patients, whose handicaps aren't severe enough to keep them in a large institution, but who need minimal supervision.

The commission's decision won't satisfy some of the neighbors who complain, justifiably, that 14 group homes are too close together. The city ordinance says they can't be within 3,000 feet of each other, a sensible requirement to keep such homes spread out. Much of the blame must be shared with group home operators who should have respected the zoning laws affecting them.

Mayor James McGee pointed out the callousness of shutting down some of the personal care homes. About 150 people could be tossed out with no place to go.

Enforcement of this ordinance ought to be possible without an excess of red tape. A simple registration procedure and a city map ought to do the trick.

Gee, thanks

Cleveland is said to be nearly bankrupt. In bankruptcy, the debtor's remaining assets are divided among the creditors.

In Cleveland's case, that would be difficult. How do you divide up a burning river?

Besieged Baker

Pity Sen. Howard Baker (R-Tenn.). A posse of his conservative Republican colleagues wants to kill him politically because he refrained from wrecking this country's relations with Latin and South America.

Baker

Sen. Baker is faulted by his party's right wing for supporting the Panama Canal treaties. If anybody writhed in agony over the treaties, it was Sen. Baker. The only way he could have gained brownie points with that bunch would have been to destroy the treaties and let the fighting in Panama break out. That hardly would have won him any favor as a potential presidential candidate.

But the right wing is not concerned about the best interests of the nation — interests Sen. Baker finally served — but about the interests of their ideology. The Panama Canal is more likely now to have a smooth future than it would have under the old arrangement of colonial imposition, and is likely to be working peacefully by the time the next presidential elections wash upon us in 1980. It is the Republican right wingers who threaten to keep the issue alive, not because of any external circumstance but in order to knock off a fellow conservative.

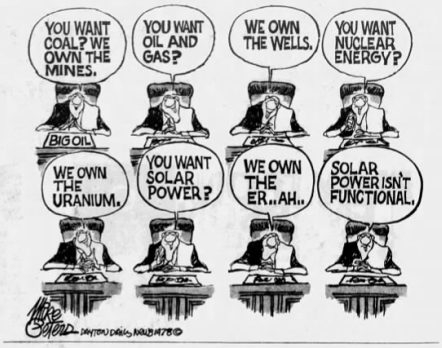
Sen. Baker could try to make up for lost ground by becoming even more conservative on other issues, and that may work for him. But he is better off following his conscience if he does not want to alienate the moderates who might support him in a presidential bid, and without whom he has can't hope for final success.

Refugee successes

Churches and synagogues, the AFL-CIO and black leaders have been among the groups succeeding at a very humanitarian work that enlivens the best principles of this country — helping indochinese refugees resettle, adjust and become self-sufficient in this country.

The unions, for example, could have taken the position that their American workers might be threatened by refugees. But the AFL-CIO and others have responded to a higher humanitarian sense, and in the long run should be well served by it. Certainly some of the Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians who are absorbed into the work force — as they have done nicely, often taking jobs that Americans reject — will become union members.

The United States, led by President Carter's humanitarian concern and federal support for re-location, is doing its share. Sen. Ted Kennedy is sponsoring a bill to permit more indochinese to immigrate when special humanitarian concerns or rights are involved, and that will help. The challenge now is to get the Asian nations to do their share — to persuade them to accept refugee ships and to promote resettlement.



Good old boys stick together

Keeping the South in Carter's fold

WASHINGTON — When I hear Washington buzz endlessly on about Hamilton Jordan, I am reminded of the political wise men's verdict at various points in Carter's 1976 campaign. We were told that Jimmy Carter was just not bright or competent or broad enough to handle things, that his aspirations to the land's highest office were crazy.

I thought then he was crazy like a fox, and I'm beginning to think so again. His critics are convincing me. They say he hasn't "grown" to the demands of office, that he is still playing in the "small time" of his limited Georgia Mafia, that he will never be "presidential."

But every one of these charges stimulates more loyalty from his most crucial yet volatile constituency. When the *Atlanta Constitution* cancels William Safire's column for being too rough on "Bert," the South is rallying to its own, and giving Carter electoral security.

(Editor's note: The Constitution made special effort to run all of Safire's columnist about Lance. Editor Hal Gulliver says he dropped Safire because of frequent factual errors about the Atlanta community.)

ATTACK JORDAN, and Southerners take it as a personal affront. The Georgia Mafia is being given life tenure with every Georgetown criticism of it. Carter vows he cannot retain the South's support by means of the veiled racism and open repression that Republicans like Nixon and Agnew could indulge. His claim depends on regional pride and style and religiosity. That is why jibes at Carter's piety probably help him where he most needs help.

Jordan as target in Jordan become indispensable. He told me, during the campaign, he did not plan to spend much time in Washington — for the typical reason that "I might turn into a Ted Sorensen." But now he could not leave even if he wanted to. He is too valuable. He is a Bert Lance under criticism only for his style (not for even the shadow of an ethical or legal vulnerability), and style is what Carter needs as a continuing claim on the South.

Jordan

We have to remember that Carter reunited the Democratic Party in the South in a very tentative way. He won the South by the normal modern black vote for a Democrat, and by luring the white Southern vote only marginally. Insofar as liberal policies are forced on him to retain the normal Democratic stance, he must keep wooing a Southern vote that had gone against the Democrats in all three elections before Carter's.

IN 1964, the South went for Goldwater, despite the fact that Lyndon Johnson, a Southerner, was leading the Democratic ticket. In 1968, it went for Wallace despite the Nixon-Agnew Southern strategy. In 1972, Nixon inherited the Southern vote after an assassin's attempt ended Wallace's campaign.

In other words, despite the relative defusion of the racial issue, the South still is cohesive and conservative in many ways. That would spell trouble for Carter if the South was not also loyal and traditional in many ways, religious ways among them.

It is no accident that the dogged support of Bert Lance included final prayers in the White House (recalling, almost, Nixon drawing Kissinger down on his knees). The emergence of Labelle Lasco as a star of the evangelical circuit, the new Anita Bryant of basking-circle "country girls," also helps. Washington *suiterie* love all this. But their most exposed target is Carter's electoral secret weapon. They are helping him laugh all the way back into the White House.

Garry Wills

Among the books Wills has written is Nixon Agonistes, a psychological and political study of the former president.

Wonderful world of suburbia

If everyone's welcome, let the barriers fall

Perhaps the big flap about Dayton Mayor McGee's remarks in Columbus (labeling township and suburban residents as racists) has served a useful purpose by clearing up certain misunderstandings.

For example, after living in Dayton suburbs, both north and south, for over 30 years I had reached the conclusion that these areas were at least as racist as the rural USA South from whence I came.

After reading the many public statements by Rep. Tom Fries and numerous other suburban officials I realize, that I was mistaken. These gentlemen clearly indicate that they are not racist and, in fact, welcome all black people — with the probable exception of Mayor McGee — to their communities.

In light of these positive attitudes regarding racial matters, perhaps now is the appropriate time to call on these suburban officials to provide more viable leadership in such important matters as: Convincing black people that they truly are welcome; dispersal of low income housing throughout the county; effective area-wide efforts in providing educational/employment opportunities which will enable inner-city youth to participate in the mainstream of the vaunted "American way of life."

Dayton. CHESTER A. FISLER.

Public interest

Special interest groups do not always act in our interest. As *The Dayton Daily News* mentioned in a recent editorial, it's been the power of the energy industry which has paralyzed Congress and prevented it from passing an energy program that could reduce oil imports which are among the biggest causes of inflation.

A recently released Common Cause study of special-interest lobbying in the Carter energy plan revealed that: Only one out of every ten energy-related organizations with Washington lobbyists registers under the existing lobbying disclosure law, and those oil companies reported spending nearly as much on lobbying California decision-makers in 1976 as the entire oil industry reported spending on the federal level during the first nine months of 1977.

Congress soon will be considering an improved lobby disclosure bill, H.R. 8494, which assures that virtually all organizations which engage in a significant amount of lobbying activity will be covered and includes enforcement provisions to insure that organizations which violate the disclosure requirements will be subject to civil or criminal penalties.

Letters to the Editor

must carry the name and address of the writer and should be under 200 words. All are subject to condensation. The letters are individual opinions, and the accuracy of their statements has not been checked by the Daily News. Letters may be phoned in to 225-2200 any time.

We in Common Cause hope Congress acts now and passes this bill, along with amendments, requiring disclosure of large contributors to lobbying organizations and reporting of grassroots lobbying activities. Only then will we know that these special interest groups are acting in our interest.

Dayton. PAT HUER.

Uninformed

A recent letter writer stated that unwanted pregnancies except in rape cases are always due to the woman's irresponsibility. That is not true. Most women and teenage girls have not been provided appropriate education concerning reproduction and contraception.

The schools, parents and society are woefully inadequate in providing sex education. Other factors can prevent them from acquiring service: Money, lack of transportation, lack of facilities to name a few. And just as important to remember is the fact that no method, male or female, is 100 per cent safe and reliable for anybody, let alone everybody.

The letter writer's statement that any woman or teenage girl can acquire the pill also is untrue. In addition to the factors already noted, medical reasons will prohibit many from using it.

Most unwanted pregnancies occur because our society has failed to provide adequate education and contraception facilities, and because contraception methods are just not effective enough. I do not believe any woman should be forced to carry a pregnancy because of these uncontrolable factors. Abortion must remain an option for those who choose to use it.

I am against any and all efforts to restrict its legality and accessibility.

Dayton. BRENDA DOE.

Too low

The Associated Press article published in *The Dayton Daily News* under the headline, "Double dips' draw fire," is another one of those items written by someone who doesn't know what he is writing about and doesn't take time to verify the figures quoted, or to analyze the inconsistencies.

The article says 39 retired military officers, by supplementing their pensions with pay from civilian government jobs, draw more than $75,000 a year. Then the writer says that the highest pensions are $21,545 and that only 12 generals get that much. I don't doubt that there are 39 who make more than the vice president, but the amount of their pensions would have to be considerably more than $21,545 if the jobs they now hold are Civil Service jobs.

As a matter of fact, many retired generals have pensions larger than $21,545. After 30 years of service, a military man can retire at three-fourths of his annual salary. Most generals earn between $35,000 and $60,000 with a larger number in the $40,000 plus category.

Even colonels, who are in the reserve and spend two weeks of each year in active duty, can draw pensions between $8,000 and $9,000 per year after completing the required service and reaching the required age.

There are many, many Civil Service retirees who draw pensions above $21,545 whose annual salaries were not nearly as high as a general's salary. Nor do they get three-fourths of their last annual salary; not even three-fourths of their high three-year average, unless they have served 30 or 40 years.

Kettering. LESLIE I. HOWARD.

When I was a boy...

When I was a boy I walked several miles to school, later rode my bike. Today citizens must pay for busing. We scholars purchased our own school books. Today citizens must pay to furnish them. We either brought our lunch or paid for it in the cafeteria. Today many are furnished free lunches. How many deserve it?

I knew the kids I went to school with. We were neighbors. Today we force the kids to go to schools where they know few others.

To attend sports activities, we rode our bikes, used public transportation or walked. Today buses take students on field trips (so they won't get bored?) and often to games (so they won't get lost?)

If a pupil was naughty, he got a switching, but today the teacher is always wrong if she disciplines a child.

Instead of another levy, our schools need a thorough re-evaluation to cut so many unnecessary costs. Instead of giving a car to the graduate, we should get him a job.

Dayton. WESLEY S. BIRD.

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