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ward a resolution of the immediate crisis. The Inter-American Peace Committee of the Organization of American States deserves high praise for its skillful and diplomatic handling of the conflict.

The temptation to feel that the controversy over the Canal Zone has now been settled must, nevertheless, be resisted. The issues have been postponed and will require the most careful use of diplomacy on both sides to nurse things along through two Presidential elections this year—Panama's in May and ours in November.

The United States has agreed (although only by implication) to "discuss" revision of the treaty governing the use of the Panama Canal. This, at least, is an advance: for no United States Administration had previously gone that far. The Panamanians have not yet stated just what treaty revisions they demand. Issues of employment, wages, trade and even a higher payment for the use of the Canal than the present yearly fee of $1,900,000, will probably offer no insuperable difficulties. If the question of sovereignty over the Canal Zone is posed, as it may be, there will be real trouble.

Moreover, much will depend on the character and policies of the Panamanian candidate who is elected on May 10. It is obvious that Panamanian extremists on the left and right (principally, left) have to be restrained. Further riots could cause an intolerable situation.

On the United States side, President Johnson will have to move ahead of the position of extreme caution maintained by his predecessor; but he will have to do so warily. There are many Senators who are strongly against any drastic treaty changes; it may even be considered politically dangerous to advocate revision. Until revision there will have to be: not at the point of a gun but in the interest of justice and of the cooperation of Panamanian-American relations, on a basis of mutual respect and understanding.

The crisis caused by the flag-raising incident is over, but it has left a high toll of lives, blood and bitterness. The outrage that brought the explosion, and the place of professional agitators, have still to be reckoned with. Americans would do well to face the fact that the treaty with Panama is going to have to be revised. There need be no hurry about it, but relations in the interim period will be smoother if this necessity is recognized.

That C.I.A. Press Conference

The Central Intelligence Agency committed a blunder last week when it fell victim to the passion for publicity which afflicts too many persons and organizations in our society. The conference disseminating its views on economy has had enough boomerang effect to suggest that this first experimental C.I.A. venture in formal public relations may also be its last. We hope so.

At least three considerations were ignored by the C.I.A. when it decided to hold that unfortunate press conference. One is the old and sound rule that that intelligence organization is best which operates most secretly. A second factor was the implicit public intrusion this action represented into the prerogatives and duties of the State Department in the field of foreign policy. Long-standing suspicions that the C.I.A. has sometimes tended to overstep its functions into the policy-formation field can only be strengthened by this incident.

Furthermore, the propaganda purposes behind the C.I.A.'s revelation of its estimates of recent Soviet growth rates are clear. Propaganda has an important place in the modern world, but not in the judgments of an agency whose evaluations are the bases for major decisions affecting the national security.

The C.I.A. has only compounded its difficulties by its unwise abandonment of intelligence tradition; and it has reinforced the long expressed view of this newspaper that a Congressional "watchdog" committee for the Central Intelligence Agency would be a very good thing for the C.I.A. as well as for the country.

The Mayor and the Poor

Mayor Wagner is not an eloquent man, but his address to the City Council this week was a moving one. Seldom have the vicious effects of poverty on the richest city in the world been better illuminated. A quarter of the families in the city live in grinding, abject, hopeless circumstances. They provide most of the grist for the juvenile courts, the family courts, the jails. They swell the relief rolls. They provide an element of social dynamite in the existing order.

The Mayor urges the city to double or triple its expenditures for public works—for schools, for housing and other urgent needs. To pay for it, he hopes to get financing from the Federal and state governments, and even foundations.

The fact that the Mayor's declaration of war on poverty is also good politics does not diminish the validity of his plea. In seeking to align New York City behind President Johnson's battle against unemployment and poverty, he is on the side of the angels as well as the voters. But political it is; and unabashedly political is his suggestion that the hoped-for Federal grants be channeled directly to the cities without intervention of state governments.

[illegible] the relief rolls to get information on zonning planning if they desire.

To the question of how the city can afford the Mayor's program, Mr. Wagner replies with a rhetorical question of his own: How can the city not afford it? That is easier to ask than to answer. But basically the war on poverty must be waged on national lines. The task is beyond the powers of any city. Only the nation as a whole can hope to deal with the tragic waste of human resources that is poverty.

Ethics Now—Not Next Year

Everybody at Albany seems to be in favor of a stiffer code of ethics—the Governor, the Republican and Democratic leaders in the Legislature, the Democratic State Controller. This is fine. But why defer all reform until new legislation of a general, sweeping nature becomes effective, after the legislators go home in late March?

There is one simple, logical, necessary reform that could be put in effect next week, either by statute, by resolution, or by informal voluntary agreement. It is: full written disclosure by every member of the Legislature of any interest—whether as a lawyer working for a client, or otherwise—that might influence or prejudice his votes or lobbying among colleagues on measures expected to come before the present session.

A glaring example has recently been aired. Governor Rockefeller declared that Assemblyman John Robert Brook had been "bought" because the latter, as a lawyer, had taken a $03,000 fee to represent railroad unions defending the featherbedding "full-crew" laws from the carriers' attack on constitutionality of these laws. Mr. Brook has proclaimed—under the pressure, it is true, of recent disclosure—that he will not vote on the issue of full-crew repeal, will absent himself from debate on it and will not try to influence other members.

But why should Mr. Brook stand alone in this lofty ethical eminence, imposed upon him largely by the Governor's remark? What about other lawyers and their clients whose interests will be involved in upcoming legislation? What about legislators who are directors or officers of banks, and even serve on legislative banking committees? Or lawyers who represent liquor interests or insurance companies? Are these members going to excuse themselves on banking, insurance and liquor legislation?

These outside interests of our lawmakers ought to be on the written record, in advance, and especially the connections with corporations, unions, trade associations and the like. The legislators should declare now—next week [illegible] specific areas of private interest in which, [illegible] excuse themselves [illegible] they have two masters [illegible] the public. Many [illegible] areas would be [illegible] on any given issue [illegible] the Legislature.

Members of Congress ought to be doing the same thing. If our lawmakers really want to come clean, they don't need to wait a year until they can pass a law.

Those High-Speed Buses

Motorists on the New Jersey Turnpike since the first of the year have been able to use the left or fast lane in the heavily traveled section between New Brunswick and the northern terminus without the nerve-racking experience of having a huge interstate bus at their rear bumpers. This is the result of a welcome new regulation barring commercial vehicles from the left lane.

The eleven bus companies using the Turnpike have wisely decided not to press their court fight on the regulation until it has had a thorough trial. If it works well on the busiest section of the Turnpike—as we hope and believe it will—it should be adopted by other high-speed toll roads in the metropolitan area.

Few things are more dismaying to the average motorist than to see in his rear-view mirror a monster bus bearing down on him at high speed. While the bus drivers are skillful, no one knows how many accidents are caused by panic-stricken drivers seeking to get out of their way. The interstate bus has been a law unto itself too long. It needs policing on the highways, just like the rest of us.

Education: The Challenge

The special education survey in today's New York Times underscores the great challenges faced today by public and private education. From the pre-school children in the slum neighborhoods to the doctoral candidates in the institutions of highest learning, vast changes are in prospect.

The Times education editor notes that "restlessness is the word that best describes American education's mood at the beginning of 1964." The major emphasis is still on civil rights—desegregation of the schools in the South and integration of the schools in the North. But there are other continuing challenges—mass education in the big cities, special schooling for deprived youth throughout the nation, curriculum changes, liberal arts and science programing, even new (or are they old?) questions about morals on the [illegible] romance is left.

Smoke Fights for Its Own

This way of thought merely binds the cigarette victim more tightly in his chains of smoke. However, once he stops thinking of his little white cylinder as a deadly weapon and sees it as a pitiful affectation, he immediately feels himself liberated.

He may even become smug or amused when watching others lay down the smoke with gale force. During those television commercials in which that man about town lights Julie London's cigarette, he may shout, "What kind of lout would light a fire under that beautiful nose?"

It is very good to think this kind of thing, but not to speak it. While breaking the cigarette habit, the breaker must be sure that nobody knows what is going on, for whenever the word gets out that some miserable fire-sniffer is trying to reform, other cigarette users everywhere organize to make sure he fails.

The cigarette users of the world, of course, form a dark brotherhood which, like the Mafia, hates a defector. When the brotherhood hears that a member has started laughing about the fires under their noses and saying, "No, thanks," to the Winstons, it proceeds to make his life miserable until he comes back to smoke.

Habit's Bark Worse Than Grip

They send cackling morale destroyers, people as malevolent as old blind Pew come to ship Billy Bones the black spot. "Quit smoking, eh? I tried once. Went two weeks, but now I'm back to three packs a day. Let me know how long you last."

Sometimes the brotherhood agent comes at lunch wearing the face of an old friend. He will ask, as he lights his little fire and puffs it in your face, "This doesn't bother you, does it? What made you decide to give it up?"

Usually the habit is quickly and easily forgotten after four or five days, and of course all those pleasant new sensations occur, just as the square old doctors always said they would. The nose begins to function again. The lungs make it to the top of the stairs without a paroxysm. Food begins to taste again as it used to taste 300,000 cigarettes ago.

They Never Let Up

After four or five months, when it can no longer be concealed that the habit has indeed been shaken, the brotherhood's attack will take on vicious new overtones. The reformed smoker will notice subtle but nonetheless ugly changes of attitudes among his old cigarette-user associates.

They may subject him to emotional outbursts: "How can you sit there like that without smoking?" Or bully him: "If you had any breeding at all, you'd light one up with me just for old time's sake."

The most trying of all are the dear old friends from the brotherhood, who wait until the reformed smoker's guard is down, perhaps from a transport of emotion or an excess of vermouth, and then try to get the old fire relit under his nose. The motive is decent enough. These people feel that the reformed friend has lost the courage to live dangerously—that he has "the fear," as they say in the bullfight movies—and they want to help him find it again.

All cigarette smokers by this time have learned to contemplate the early grave with equanimity, but they hate to think of leaving the friends behind. RUSSELL BAKER.

DEATH OF A GRAY DAY, MOBILE

This is the way of beauty in a barren time:
The smear of misty rain on slated roofs,
A gray reflection, spaced in squares, the proofs
Of dampness nimble as an easy rime
That moves through demarkation and unites
All rigid shape, all lonely separateness
All bare restatement of a desperateness
Like ragged fields and winter-beaten heights
And gives connection and a silver flow.
So on a cabined, tight rigidity
Your beauty lightly falls, and from the eaves
Flows misty loveliness before the sight
And [illegible] darkening shapes

Nixon Stays Out of Trouble

Nixon is a man who has learned how to stay out of trouble. He has learned it the hard way, and he has learned it well. He has learned it so well that he is now in a position to be the most effective critic of the Administration's foreign policy. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in Vietnam and Panama. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Congo and Cyprus. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Dominican Republic and Cuba. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Western Hemisphere. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Pacific. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Atlantic. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Mediterranean. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Caribbean. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Gulf of Mexico. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Gulf of Tonkin. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Gulf of Aden. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Gulf of Oman. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Gulf of Aqaba. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Gulf of Suez. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Gulf of Mannar. He is free of the responsibility for the decisions that have led to the present difficulties in the Gulf of Martaban