

Arts and Ideas

The printed news forms a collage

I read an average of three to four newspapers or magazines every day. The amount of fascinating information I come across in my daily reading is always illuminating. Here are some examples, that for me, establish a pattern.

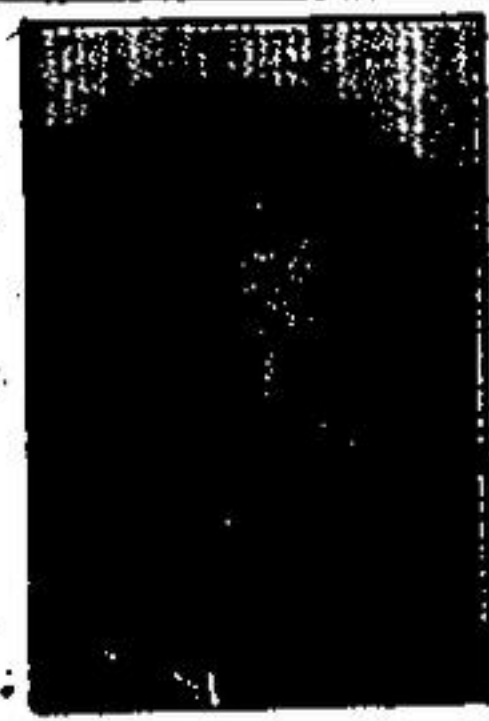
John Kenneth Galbraith, the Canadian by birth, who became the American ambassador to India, 30 years ago, and a close advisor to President Kennedy, is now professor emeritus of economics at Harvard University. He addressed the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources in Washington last January. Harper's, the American magazine, adapted his statement for their March issue. Let me quote some of the key sentences of a very lengthy article.

"What has caused this downturn in economic prospects? How serious does the recession promise to be? What must be done by way of remedy? As to the cause of the recession, let there be no doubt. We are paying for the economic aberrations of the past decade.

"An era of explosive securities speculation and financial manipulation has come, as it always must, to its inevitable end. The corporate raids and leveraged buyouts have let a great number of our large enterprises with a heavy burden of debt that they now must service at a high cost to innovation, investment, and employment.

Additionally, and of more immediate consequence, we have come to the end of a period of extensive real estate speculation. This has brought the construction industry to a near halt. This industry is a large employer of blue-collar workers; these workers, in turn, are a large and growing component of the unemployed. Further, during this decade there was the heavy transfer of spendable income from the poor to the rich. The poor, performance always spend their income. The rich do not. How long will the recession last?

The Great Depression of the Thirties lasted a full 10 years. I do not predict a similar disaster. I do urge that all predictions, however great the authority, be received with something between amusement and contempt. It is my feeling the great welfare measures of this century have given the economy a resilience it did not have in earlier times.



Ideas and The Arts

by John Sommer

Turning to specific action, there are some steps that should now be taken. The Federal Reserve should make further and substantial reductions in interest rates. Second, we should for now suspend talk of a balanced budget.

It will stand as one of the crucifying errors of our time that we ran large deficits throughout the last decade when we did not need them.

However, it only adds to the error if we reverse that policy now that the economy is in recession.

I have seen much public action that was constructive, humane, and good. And some that was illogical, eccentric, and socially perverse. Rarely, however, have I seen anything quite so impressive in this regard as the efforts of the White House budget director, over the objections of the secretary of health and human services, to cut back, at this of all times, on administrative support for Medicare, Social Security payments for the disabled, prenatal care, health care, and generally for help to minority groups and low-income people. Third, now that the Cold War is over, we must look to the employment efficiency of our public expenditure. For sophisticated weaponry the yield of jobs per dollar of public expenditure is very low. For other public purposes - including housing, needed civilian public works, and elementary health care - the employment efficiency is much higher. There must now be a major shift away from low-efficiency spending."

Michael Wilson just a day before announcing his tough new budget, gave 50 of the highest paid civil servants in Ottawa a retroactive 4.2% pay increase. And Allan Fotheringham, in his

column in the Toronto Sun, had this to say about two of the lucky recipients:

"John Crow, who limps along with a salary that may be more than \$250,000 certainly needed that 4.2%. Ron Lawless, who runs Canadian National and has made such a tremendous success of VIA Rail, was no doubt desperate for the 4.2% hike on his stipend of \$365,000 or so."

And the Halton Hills Herald had this cheerful news to report on the same day.

"Federal Finance Minister, Michael Wilson, will get another

chance to redeem himself with the Halton Chamber of Commerce. Chamber President Dave Page confirmed Friday he will present Mr. Wilson with a replacement cheque during the Debt Freedom Conference in Ottawa March 20 for the one that was issued by the Chamber to the government last summer, but went uncashed."

The printed news is a collage. Each item seems to be separate, but in the readers mind, these bits form a picture that influences the way each of us thinks.

Special lecture

Respected literary and biblical scholar John Francis Bligh will be giving a public lecture on the Noah and the Ark Story as part of the Guelph Spring Festival's 1991 Education Events. The lecture will take place at War Memorial Hill, Guelph, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 5. It will be followed by a reception at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre. All tickets for this event are \$6.

Dr. Bligh is replacing the late Northrop Frye who was originally scheduled to present this lecture on literary and biblical aspects of the famous Bible story.

John Bligh has taught at several universities throughout England and North America. As a lecturer and educator he is highly revered and has a special talent for touching his audience and bringing the bible to life.

Many who have heard him lecture say that he should have taken up acting because of his animated speaking style.

Dr. Bligh has written several books and numerous articles on what he calls "desert-island" literature; the Bible, Shakespeare and Milton. For many years John taught a course on "The Bible as Literature" at the University of Guelph. Since his retirement in 1988 he has continued to write and lecture on literary, social and theological topics.

This special education event promises to both enlighten and stimulate and will be held in conjunction with the Guelph Spring Festival's production of Benjamin Britten's brilliant operatic setting of the Noah Story, Noye's Fludde, on May 5, 6 and 7.

Gallery House Sol private collection sale

People buy art works, and, having lived with them for many years, get tired of them. Or they get old and wish to live in a smaller, easy to look after home.

Gallery House Sol, 45 Charles Street in Georgetown, has gathered art works from people like that, and has put them together in an exhibition and sale of art works from private collections.

The exhibition is filled with a great range of excellent paintings, sculptures, drawings and original, handprinted graphics. All of these creations are waiting for new masters and new homes.

The exhibition opens March 23, and continues through April 11.

Some of the artists represented in the exhibition and sale are Frank Black, Ken Danby, Andreas and Yosef Dretners, Mackay Houstoun, Sharon Merkur and Harold Town.

The viewing hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Admission is free.

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Date: Sunday, March 10/91

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Artist helps Cancer Society

Georgetown artist, Linda Donais, presented Ted Gorth and Marlene Kelman of the Halton Hills Cancer Society with a \$390 cheque Monday. The money was raised between Dec. 16 and Feb. 16 when Linda kept \$30 aside for the society from the sale of two of her prints in publication. The prints, 'Coun-

try's Threshold' and 'The Milk Can' retail for \$65 and the same fundraiser will be held again from April 1 to April 30. The prints are displayed at the Halton Community Credit Union and at the Royal Bank (Mountainview branch). (Herald photo)

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