

Free Nations Mourn

WITH a sense of the deepest shock and dismay New Zealanders will read of the assassination of President John Kennedy.

Whatever the reason for the killing, the consequence is the loss to the free world of a comparatively young President who had won the affection and esteem of many millions of people.

President Kennedy was a brave man, and one who during his Presidency handled with skill and courage the several crises that faced him after he entered the White House.

But while these international problems persisted, internally there was no let-up in the struggle over racial integration.

Despite threats of every kind President Kennedy never wavered. His party is committed to this same policy.

The free world is the better for John Kennedy's life and work. In death his example should serve to inspire men and women tending to waver in the face of opposition to any cause they feel is right.

The Role of Youth

A YOUNG man's contribution to the "Christchurch Star" this week, giving youth's point of view on politics leaves the conviction that political parties are setting their sights far too low.

Asking what goal the country has to offer youth, the contributor wrote: "If you take two boys—one from a good home who has led an exemplary life and the other from a Borstal—and really inspire them with the need to achieve some endeavour, I have enough confidence in the youth of New Zealand to say that neither will fail."

A long time ago Goethe observed that the destiny of any nation, at any given time, depends on the opinions of its young men under five and twenty—before compromise lays its crippling hand upon them.

The appropriate place for youth in New Zealand is not a special niche, nor a receiving centre for other people's beneficence, but in the mainstream of life, doing their work.

For more vital is the zest for life itself—the exciting vision that sees opportunities, the daring that tackles "insuperable" problems, the compassion that stirs human hearts and the faith that these days moves mountains both literally and metaphorically.

Zealand is full of opportunities and crammed with challenge.

N.Z. Too Acquiescent

New Zealanders were not rebellious enough, which was why laws like the Indecent Publications Act could be put into practice, said Mr Patrick Carey, director of Dunedin's Globe Theatre, in Christchurch yesterday.

Mr Carey said he had done and would continue to do plays which would offend an officious censorship committee.

Full diplomatic immunity is to be given to 6235 people in Britain, the Foreign Secretary (Mr R. A. Butler) stated in the House of Commons.

The question of amalgamation was a very important one and a matter about which there seemed to be some urgency, Dr P. W. Cotter wrote in a letter read at yesterday's meeting of the Mount Herbert County Council.

Cockfoot cutting, not so many years ago one of Banks Peninsula's most lucrative summer occupations, has fallen on evil days.

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World Opinion

Danger Line

THE reported build-up of Indonesian forces against Malaysia could easily end in tragedy, if President Soekarno values the support of the United States he would be ill-advised to let confrontation with the new Federation go beyond the covert aid and comfort which he undoubtedly makes available to the guerrilla forces in the former Borneo territories.

Red Weakness

KHRUSHCHEV talks a great deal about Soviet wonders in space, but he is always confronted with down-to-earth food troubles.

Lesson Pointed

ONE lesson at least may be derived in Moscow (and in other capitals). It is a mistake to arrest anyone on spying charges unless there is convincing evidence to bring against them.

Brighton to Have Fine New Yachting Marina

NO Londoner, or for that matter, anybody else within easy reach, needs any strong persuasion to visit Brighton. A touch of sunshine, a streak of blue sky, and a few hours of leisure—who would not seize the chance to descend by train, car or coach on this gay and beautiful resort on England's south coast?

It has been a favourite rendezvous since about 1750, when a certain Dr Russell, discovering the magical properties of sea-bathing, established the smelly little fishing village of Brightelmstone as the world's first modern health resort.

"Kind, cheerful, merry Doctor Brighton" exclaimed the 19th-century English author Thackeray. Before his time the novelist Jane Austen had already had one of her heroines imagining that "a visit to Brighton comprised every possibility of earthly happiness."

So when news broke this month of a £9,000,000 scheme to provide Brighton with a fine new yachting marina and casino to attract pleasure-lovers from all over the world, I decided that one pleasure-lover would start for Brighton in the next few minutes.

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Down to Earth

Bold Sparrows

A FRIEND dropped in to tell me that he had witnessed several large flocks of sparrows, "almost in military formation" one after another attacking a hawk. They did not appear to apply physical violence, but were content apparently to "buzz" the big bird, which had probably been either robbing nests or else swooping on young fledglings trying out their walking legs and flying wings.

Who organised them? How did they all know to gather, to rise, to wheel together, to pursue, to swoop? The bully would have been more than a match for one or for two, but two hundred was another matter! The instinct of the individual is explicable and understandable, but what of the instinct of the flock, the herd, the crowd?

Voting Behaviour and Patterns

WILL BE STUDIED IN SURVEYS TO BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION.



The Royal Pavilion, Brighton.

one at the Hotel Metropole, restaurants, shops, outdoor and indoor swimming pools, and a children's zone.

There would also be a heliport to provide frequent helicopter services and a "Hovercraft" station for swift trips across the English Channel to the Continent of Europe.

'Boatels'

THERE would be "boatels," too, and holiday flatlets built into the sea wall, giving the advantages of an ocean cruise without risk of sea-sickness. The sponsors believe their creation would rival any marina anywhere, and draw pleasure-seekers to Brighton not simply from London, as in the "Regency Days" of 150 years ago, but from all corners of the globe.

Approved or not, the plan is in keeping with the spirit of this lovely and stimulating "city-by-the-sea."

Brighton already has visitors from many lands taking in exotic tongues almost matching in number the restaurants, oyster counters, theatres, ice rinks, fashionable department stores, ripe old English inns and modern aperitif bars.

Another typical Brighton plan under review is the building of a model of the ancient Abu Simbel temple which 46 countries have pledged funds to save from the dammed-up waters of the Nile.

If the ideas of Mr Leslie Kramer, a Brighton resident, win support, the model will be dug into the chalk cliffs overlooking the famous local beauty spot known as the Devil's Dyke.

Pipeline

TALKING of dams, the almost unbelievable has just happened on London's River Thames. For two consecutive mornings all ship traffic up and down the river was stopped for four hours at a stretch.

The pipeline is part of a 325-mile system linking the north of England with Canvey Island, near the mouth of the Thames, to which methane is to be brought in liquid form from the Sahara Desert in special tankers now being built in Britain's shipyards.

When the liquid is "re-gasified" at Canvey Island, it will be fed over the pipeline as domestic gas to some 13,000,000 customers up and down the country.

Research

TRANSPORTING the gas has been made possible after a decade of research costing nearly £7,000,000. In liquid form, the gas occupies only one-sixth of its normal volume.

Two ships running the ferry service between Britain and the Algerian coast will handle enough methane a year to meet one-tenth of Britain's total gas requirements.

And although methane is the deadly "fire damp" which causes colliery explosions, its carriage by sea has now been made so safe that the insurance risk is rated no higher than in the case of ordinary oil transport.

Nose Ticklers

The headiness of hot-house blooms. The dust-smote air of unused rooms. Excitement at the final bell. These are things I love to smell.

Dusty footpaths damped by rain. Sweating bodies that heave and strain. Wood smoke drifting in the breeze—I love to smell such things as these.

Spiky warmth of small boys' hair. Washing, fresh from sun and air. Cakes and coffee, scent that clings—Who would not love to smell such things?

A sparkling dawn, a velvet night, Babies curled up, pink and tight. The moss around a wishing well—These are things I love to smell.

—MARGOT MANN.

NEW TEST FOR DEAF BABIES

AN Australian invention might revolutionise the treatment of deaf children. It is designed to check a child's hearing within days of its birth.

Scientists are swinging more and more to the belief that, in its early life, a child is worse handicapped by faulty hearing than by faulty vision.

They point out that a child with perfect eyes does not use them to full advantage until at least three months old. By then it has probably learned to distinguish between mother and father by sound alone.

Time Lost

BUT where a child is born deaf, even the most observant parent does not become aware of it until precious, irreplaceable time has passed.

Before the defect is identified, anything up to four years may have passed; and during that time the child has been denied the most human contact of all with his fellow beings—the human contact of speech.

Dr Aram Glorig, director of research of the sub-committee of noise of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Oto-Laryngology in Los Angeles, lectured in Sydney in 1962 and said: "If you can get a hearing aid on a child when that child is a mere infant, just born, you are going to have a different type of adult than if you wait until this child is two, three, four or six."

In my opinion, the mass of information that gets into that brain by the acoustic sense is the information upon which the subsequent associations are made with vision, with touch, and with all the other senses.

Consider, too, the words of Dorothea McCarthy in her "Language Development in Children": "The intimate relationship . . . between language and thought is further evidence of the importance of this aspect of the child's development. Language . . . is so frequently involved in thought that a certain basic level of attainment in linguistic skills is practically an essential pre-requisite to the child's formal education."

Convinced

WHEN Dr Glorig was giving his address in Sydney, a young Sydney teacher named Walter George Parr, lecturer in education at Sydney Teachers' College, had for four years been working on perfecting an instrument designed to detect deafness immediately after birth.

Mr Parr was convinced that the routine method of clapping the hands or shouting near the child's ear was useless. The clapping of hands ex-

Research

ploded air, and the rush of air on the child's cheek could easily bring a response that could be wrongly attributed to normal hearing; and the human voice tested only a certain hearing range, leaving the usual high-frequency defect undetected.

Now, five years after he first tackled the problem, Mr Parr and two co-workers have produced the P.P.J. Deafness Detector. The name P.P.J. comes from their surnames.

Mr Parr's two co-workers are Ray Piesse, senior physicist of Australia's Commonwealth Acoustic Laboratory, and John Jacobsen, instrument maker at the Sydney Teachers' College.

Many Advantages

IT has many advantages over other mechanical tests that have been tried. It is relatively inexpensive—parts used in an instrument cost less than £10—it is simple and portable, and is able to provide the needed stimulus without being too disturbing either to the child concerned or to others nearby.

It is contained in a small oblong box, and comprises an oscillator and power amplifier driving a small loudspeaker which is held close to the baby's ear while it is asleep. Tiny signals are given at intervals, for a maximum of thirty seconds.

The hearing baby usually responds with movements such as a blinking of the eyes, lifting the head, screwing up the face, moving the arms or legs or body as a whole.

If a baby does not respond, deafness is suspected and the tests are repeated until any doubt is resolved. The tests cannot be administered at a faster average rate than fourteen an hour, and then only at suitable times during the child's routine.

Twice Weekly

MR PARR feels that the adequate operation of the system would require tests to be made by trained staff twice weekly during the five days most children are in maternity hospitals. Since there are more than 1500 children born each week in New South Wales alone, special staff would be needed to carry out the tests.

He says that properly trained staff is essential. He points out that even those babies whose hearing is perfect do not always respond to the stimulus. Contrary to popular belief, this failure is not a function of age in the first six days of life. The critical factor is depth of sleep.

He has found that it is best to test as soon as possible after the babies return from feeding.

Walter George Parr looks forward to the day when newly born deaf babies throughout the world can be immediately brought under the influence of specialist training, and given full opportunity to develop their capabilities.

Handles 1800 Parcels an Hour

A parcel-sorting machine of a type which will probably be widely used in postal sorting offices in the future is now working at Preston, Lancashire, as part of a newly designed office. The machine, known as the tilted belt parcel-sorting machine, can sort 1800 parcels an hour.

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Correspondence

Suggested Question

Sir,—If apathy is a characteristic of this election, it is because candidates waste so much time in trivialities and backchat. A burning question, at present largely side-tracked, is the constitution change proposed to give State aid to private schools. Could a member of the audience at any meeting ask the candidate the following question—"Are you in favour of any State aid to private schools?"—and ask for an unequivocal yes or no answer, without any hedging or reservations? The candidates' answers might influence their fate at election day.—SECULAR.

Social Security

Sir,—Social Credit is under discussion in this election period. Mr quote Sir Compton McKenzie (greatest man of Scottish letters?) an article in the "Spectator" London, March 26, 1952. "Social security sounds wonderful, but the sooner we abandon the notion that social security is provided by the old age pension in its present form the better. So far the only person who offer a scheme for genuine social security are the Social Creditors and in spite of the opposition of orthodox economists to the theory, have not yet read a convincing rebuttal of it." That, sir, is from the greatest man of Scottish letters.—ALBERT F. WILLYAMS.

Labour's Budget

Sir,—I would like to point out to "First Voter-St Albans," who complains about Labour's 1957 election promises, that although not a supporter I believe in fairness to any party. If he gave the matter a little thought he would see it was impossible to carry out all promises in a three-year period owing to the state of the Island Government left the country in. If this National Government goes in again he will have something to grumble about, for next year there will be a lot of price rises—butter, sugar, tea, beer, bread, and flour, not forgetting petrol—and almost doubled taxes.—PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE.

Rescue Breathing

Sir,—Many organisations in this city are doing a really splendid job in educating the public on rescue breathing, but the dramatic page with illustrations and instructions in the Tuesday's "Star" by a city firm and read by thousands and thousands of readers will undoubtedly also do a great deal to bring home the importance of this vital knowledge. This page could quite possibly be the direct means of saving lives this summer, for every reader who spent ten minutes or more studying its illustrations and instructions is now a potential life-saver! I feel, and think most will agree, that a vote of thanks is due to this public spirited city firm.—BREATH OF LIFE.

Exam. Paper Leak

Sir,—I consider the letter by "Fair's Fair" to be most unfair. I can only assume that he has no knowledge of the security precautions taken when examination papers are being printed. I have worked on them and I can assure you that the papers are checked and rechecked at every point and there is very little possibility of anyone "borrowing" a paper for even a few minutes. I feel that it is inevitable that someone talks out of turn at some time, not necessarily deliberately, and not necessarily a printer. Perhaps if the "Fair's Fair" gives a thought to all of the University School Certificate and music examination papers that are printed without mishap every year, he would give some credit where it is fairly due.—BROWNIE.

'Moral Drift'

Sir,—A great deal of the change that Dr Mazengarb considers a moral decline comes from people who, as children, had been brought up on very narrow lines with too much discipline and not enough humanity. It has tended to swing the pendulum from one extreme to the other. Another factor is the enormous changes brought about by a machine age, giving a richer civilisation than ever before. The Labour Government brought New Zealand out of the depression with far seeing legislation that gave the farmer protection from fluctuating prices by introducing a guaranteed price. It gave the worker increased wages and better working conditions. New Zealand's war effort under Labour caused Mr Churchill to say: "They never put a foot wrong."—C. FITZGERALD.

'Misdirected' Votes

Sir,—We have had considerable publicity on votes that might be cast for Social Credit or Liberals at our forthcoming election. I do not agree in principle to their being described as wasted votes, for every one of us has, and I hope will continue to have, the right to vote for any candidate we choose. But votes cast for splinter groups or for those organisations that do not enjoy even a modicum of public support are, in the final result, surely misdirected. The Press Association message of November 18 reporting that Lord Moyne had resigned from the British Liberal Party is surely most apposite. His reason for resigning was, in effect, that the splitting of votes would put the Labour Party into power. That could occur and give us a Government that did not enjoy the confidence of the majority of our people. That would surely be quite undemocratic.—MERIVALE.

Loan from I.M.F.

Sir,—The remarks of Mr E. L. Greensmith, Secretary to the Treasury, concerning the International Monetary Fund's attitude to the New Zealand economy make interesting reading. He states: "These countries retaining exchange control are required to consult annually with the fund regarding the restrictions currently in use, the balance of payments justification for them, and the possibilities for their removal. In our experience these consultations have been held in an atmosphere of mutual respect and helpfulness. Has he forgotten what the spider said to the fly or that the wolf smiled at Red Riding Hood's grandmother before he ate her up? The National Government threw us to these sharks of international finance without any election advice and without a mandate from the people. This occasion will rank as the darkest day in New Zealand history, as the day when we lost our birthright and control of our economy.—JOHN FORSTER.

TO CORRESPONDENTS

"Your 'Dump Him'." Write to the sports club concerned. "No Vote for Social Credit!." You cannot write on the same subject over more than one non de plume.

