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We customarily devote our December issue to (a) consciousness about those in bonds of prisons and similar installations, and (b) the issues of war and peace, (c) birth and actual or potential slaughter of the innocent, and (d) the interface of religion and human services.

Crime, Punishment and Prisons

A witty observer once rejoiced that being sentenced to prison gave one the opportunity to meet some of the finest people. Of course, one may also meet some of the ugliest, but we should never forget two universals. (a) The biggest criminals are virtually never in prison, but run the country, its government, the military, its business, etc. (b) No matter how depraved a prisoner may be, this is no justification for inflicting cruelty, torture or death on him/her.

In addition, there are some things to consider that are less universal, and that are relevant for our culture and time. (a) Many people in prison need not be there, and that for various reasons, e.g., restitution would have been a much better consequence for their crimes; their sentence was excessive, etc. (b) Yes, there are at least a few innocent people in prison—and probably even on death row.

The Prison Scene

POLICE PREROGATIVES
(Unknown Provenance)

Where are you goin'? When was you born? And where, why and how? What jail was you in last? Come clean or I'll beat up on you till you tell. I think I'll turn loose on you with a sap. Aint ya got any money? What were ya doin' in the war? Slackin', eh? I'll frame ya an' put ya over th' road fer luck!
Institutions Ltd. devoted its entire 10/23 issue to prison overcrowding. US prisons commonly hold about 50% more prisoners than they were designed to hold. There are now about 430,000—enough to populate the state of Wyoming. This amounts to 175 people for every 100,000 population. This is why the journal gave the situation the name 'Our 51st State.' Incarceration rates vary widely between states, from a low of 47 per 100,000 in North Dakota to a high of 324 in Nevada. In Texas and California, prisoners have even begun to be housed in tent cities, such as they used to be in Civil War days. Some states have even taken to selling their prisoners to other states, i.e., paying other states to incarcerate them.

In the opinion of the TIPS editor, prison sentencing, and parole practices, where such discretions do exist, are often simply insane. People who commit crimes known to spring from deeply-seated impulses are turned loose again and again upon the public, while perfectly harmless offenders are mindlessly incarcerated with not even an opportunity for a work release program under tight supervision, and with little use made of restitution as an alternative to imprisonment.

People in law enforcement are trying to tell us that they must have more prisons because prisoners are becoming ever more vicious. This is part of the truth, but the other part is that every system wants to get bigger, and constructive alternatives to prisons have always been systematically sabotaged by the people in the prison business. Food for thought is the case of a man sentenced to prison in 1978 for bank robbery, but who mistakenly was released. When he was re-discovered in mid-1983, it was found that he had been leading a law-abiding life since his accidental release. Had he not been overlooked, he would almost certainly have been in prison for many years, and we would have been told that alternatives to his imprisonment were unwarranted (AP, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 7/2/83).

An old prison serving the area in which Syracuse is located was recently replaced with a new one, and a newspaper headline read 'New pen open for business. Imprisonment is indeed big business. In seven years, the money for prisons has doubled and sometimes tripled, and there is no end as yet anywhere in sight.

Prisons have much in common with nuclear or toxic waste dumps. Almost everybody agrees that they are needed, but believes they should be located somewhere else—the only exception historically having been depressed communities which have gladly accepted prisons as a source of income. It is hard to believe that New York City has managed to export its prisoners for generations to a string of prisons elsewhere stretching almost all the way to the other end of the state, about 400 miles away. In recent years, every time some building (including colleges and air force bases) somewhere began to stand empty, the state suggested that it be converted to a prison, and a number of upstate and central New York institutions are or have been so converted. Finally, a powerful state legislator struck back in 1983 and introduced a bill to study the feasibility of converting part of the World Trade Center in New York City, considered one of the state's most prestigious business and government addresses, into a prison. Specifically, he suggested that the top floors of the 110-story structure be so used, because that would solve part of the security problem since prisoners had nowhere to go except out the window.

For hundreds of years, discarded ship hulks were used as 'temporary' prisons, particularly in the English-speaking world. Now a US representative from Hawaii asked the state legislature to study the feasibility of purchasing a surplus aircraft carrier for use as a prison, claiming that 'nobody has ever done it' (UPI, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 2/2/83).
A person in a prison becomes ill, things go ill with the person. Between 1970 and 1983, 610 inmates of Texas prisons died from terminal diseases alone. At the Lilis Prison Farm in Texas, 35 people, including some of the employees and their family members, got cancer between 1970 and 1982, apparently as a result of food and water contamination by pesticides and herbicides used in adjacent fields (Institutions Etc., 7/83).

Capital Punishment

*Quakers have a glorious history of involvement in human services, especially on behalf of the imprisoned*. In their public debates on behalf of the abolishment of the death penalty, Quakers and other reformers in Britain as early as 130 laid great emphasis on the fact that the death penalty was even then recognized as ineffectual as a deterrent. It is obvious that simple truths known hundreds of years ago have still not penetrated sufficiently into our contemporary social structure. T. F. Fuxton, the brother-in-law of the famed Quaker prison reformer, Elizabeth Fry, said as early as about 1613 that 'as idleness is one great cause of sin, industry is one great means of reformation', and believed that even prisoners awaiting trial should work. The above are taken from Jorns, A. (1931). *The Quakers as pioneers in social work* (T. K. Brown, transl.) New York: Macmillan, 1931.

*The number of people sentenced to death for murders which they never actually committed has not been inconsiderable through the years. A relevant case came to light in October 1983, when a 30-year old man was released from prison after serving four years of a life sentence in the Missouri penitentiary. A man suspected of a long string of murders confessed to the slaying instead. We would all do well to emulate the forgiving spirit of the wrongly convicted and accused man who said at his release, 'I'm not mad at anybody.'*

*One of the greatest scandals about the death penalty is that almost without exception, prisoners who have been on death row in recent years in the US were poor people. Most had been represented by court-appointed lawyers who, on the average, were vastly less skilled than lawyers who defend the rich and famous.*

*The power of imitation. In Valdosta, Georgia, a 15-year old boy was so fascinated by the electrocution of John Evans in Alabama that he decided to build his own little electric chair as a school project with the help of an uncle. The chair very much looked like the real thing, and while it did not work as intended, it did light up when the switch was thrown. The design won him an award for 'the most creative class project', and the boy noted that it 'taught him how electrocution works and what the real electric chair looks like' (AP, 1983. source item submitted by Cathy Costanzo).*

Confinement of Young People

*According to a report in Institutions Etc. (7/83), children who have committed only minor offenses may end up spending long periods of time at Idaho's State Training School. Once there, any discipline infractions may result in being made to stand against a wall for 10 to 12 hours a day with nose and toes touching the wall and hands clasped behind the back—for up to 30 days! What can this be called but yet another of so many forms of deathmaking? The director of the facility urged critics to look on the bright side of things, such as that every isolation room on campus has been remodeled or is being remodeled.*
Prophetic Voices of the Past

"We oppose...preparedness for war, a preparedness which is going on now on an unprecedented scale and which will undoubtedly lead to war....And since the unbridled race for armaments is, on the one hand, the effect of the rivalry among nations and, on the other, cause of the withdrawal of enormous sums from the public wealth and hence not the smallest of contributors to the current extraordinary crisis." (Pastoral letter, Pope Pius XI, 1929.)

"If we are calling upon nations to disarm, we must be brave enough and courageous enough to set the example....Do we believe we help any country by participating in an evil in which they are engaged? We rather help them by maintaining our own peace. It takes a person of heroic stature to be a pacifist and we urge our readers to consider and study pacifism and disarmament in this light.

A pacifist who is willing to endure the scorn of the unthinking mob, the ignominy of jail, the pain of stripes and the threat of death, cannot be lightly dismissed as a coward afraid of physical pain.

A pacifist even now must be prepared for the opposition of the mob who thinks violence is bravery. The pacifist in the next war must be ready for martyrdom.

"We call upon youth to prepare!" (Editorial, Catholic Worker, 5/1936.)

*The modern mind continues to treat itself and its products as a god-idol, and learns nothing from this mistake. In 1938, Time magazine hailed the four-power agreement which awarded the Sudetenland to Germany as proof that modern communication and enlightenment of the peoples reduce the chances of an outbreak of war, in that the capacity of governments to communicate instantly by radio was believed to have averted a major war for the first time in history." Wisely, the 1938 news reported was reprinted in the 1983 anniversary issue of Time.

*Thinking Ahead? The last US general to receive a fifth star was Omar Bradley in 1950. Nevertheless, the government, already having 160 sets of five-star general's insignia in hand, has requested another 2500! (Common Cause, No. 2, 1983)

*At this time, at least 45 countries, which is more than 25% of all countries in the world, are involved in conventional war or armed conflict, including guerrilla war. Over 4 million soldiers are involved. At one time or another, the US had supplied arms to all but two of these nations, to the tune of $51 billion over a ten year period. It is currently supplying arms to 20 of the nations now at war, with Russia supplying only 13.

*The Association of American Universities is among the war mongers. In 1933, it lobbied the US administration to restore $30 million for basic weapons research--to be largely conducted for the military by universities (Science, 11/4/63).

*There is a new report out entitled World Military and Social Expenditures 1982 ($4.00). It contains information such as the following. World military expenditures are $600 billion a year. The world's stockpile of nuclear weapons amounts to an equivalent of 15,000 million tons of TNT (in World War II, only the equivalent of 3 million were used). The US government is spending 10 times as much to develop a rapid deployment force to protect its oil interest in the Middle East than it is spending on research on renewable energy as an alternative to oil. The richest 20% of the world's population owns 71% of the world's production, while the poorest 20% owns 2%. The nuclear missiles which the Reagan administration has been proposing to install in Western Europe would only take 6 minutes to reach Moscow.
Scientists, army officers, great universities (Notre Dame included) and captains of industry -- all are given credit lines in the press for their work of preparing the bomb -- and other bombs the President assures us are in production now.

We are making the bombs. This new great force will be used for good, the scientists assured us. And then they wiped out a city of 315,000. This was good. The President was jubilant.

Editor's postscript. For years, the US government and its armed forces have found all kinds of inappropriate things to do on August 6, the anniversary of the atom bombing of Hiroshima. In 1963, these included such things as open houses at air force bases where personnel demonstrated their proficiency at loading cruise missiles into L-52 bombers (Syracuse Herald Journal, 8/6/63).

Keep Them Down Where They Belong

Now here is a very unlikely sequence of events. In German mythology, there are dwarfish gnomes that inhabit underground places, called kobolds, which is derived from the same root as the English "goblin." Perhaps not surprisingly, when a new lustrous silver-white metallic element was found, it was called cobalt. In more recent years, we have come to know cobalt as one of the elements which is used in one of its forms in nuclear reactors and as a source of gamma rays.

Native people in many different parts of the world have a surprisingly similar myth that there is a vicious beast buried in the earth, and that if humans ever dig it up and let it out, it will destroy everything. The natives in Australia believe this -- and lo and behold, they have recently been dispossessed so that uranium ore could be extracted from their land which, of course, is made into nuclear energy and nuclear weapons material. Thus, the underground stuff that is very likely to destroy the world was a kobold after all. There now exists over 1.6 million times the nuclear explosive power of the Hiroshima Bomb with more added every day.

The more nuclear weapons there are, the more targets there are found to direct them to. By 1963, the US had identified 30,000 nuclear targets inside Russia.

Most people have not as yet woken up to the fact that the Reagan administration has embarked on an incredibly massive 10-year program of increase in nuclear arsenal that is projected to cost $450 billion over the next six years, and will produce 3 nuclear weapons every day, and a net gain of more than 1000 a year over "replacements."

The American public is apparently not generally aware that the American military has been working on a number of weapons systems which only make sense if they were intended for a preemptive first American nuclear strike at Russia. One of these components is a new system whereby fighter planes can launch rockets into outer space to destroy the Russian early warning satellites. This would not only reduce the Russian response time about 15 minutes, but would present them with enormous difficulties in transmitting orders to their launching sites. Yet this weapons system has been developed without any public debate, and for all practical purposes, behind the back of Congress. The Russians have no comparable system, and being paranoid even in the best of circumstances, this is the kind of development that might scare them so much that they might decide to strike first (Science, 10/14/83).

President Reagan quite accurately told a group of Jewish leaders, "We are on the road to Armageddon." Amusingly, we are told that his aides were at a loss to explain what he meant. (UPI column by Helen Thomas, in Syracuse Herald American, 11/5/83.)
depending on light will come to an end, and with it any animal life depending on it. Because the debris would take so long to settle, radioactivity carried by it would last much longer than had been believed before. Once the debris settled, ultraviolet light would be more intense, reducing the immunity of whatever higher life forms may have survived, and with billions of unburied bodies beginning to thaw, deadly epidemics can be expected to break out.

*One of the Pacific islands that was used to test a hydrogen bomb is so contaminated with plutonium that it is estimated that it will take 240,000 years before it will be safe again for humans (Sojourners, 6/83).

*Former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara said that during the Middle East crisis of the 6-day war in June 1967, the US and Russia almost went to war. He also said when a B-52 bomber crashed in North Carolina in 1961, one of the nuclear bombs it was carrying went through all but the last of about 7 arming steps -- which we were always told could not happen (AP, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 5/15/83).

*Two women peace demonstrators who entered a nuclear weapon site were recently tried. The judge asked the 12 jurors whether any of them held any position for or against nuclear weaponry. None responded. One wonders how many people there are in our age who hold no position on that issue (Center Peace, No. 1, 1983).

The Detoxification of Nuclear War

*Every year, the US federal Emergency Management Agency engages in multi-million dollar exercises on how to respond to nuclear war. Sadly, most of these are unbelievably funny. For instance, one set of instructions it hands out is that when you hear the siren that tells you that bombs are about to fall, you are to pack your car with 100 different items ranging from a door (to put over the hole you are supposed to dig later) to plastic credit cards to toys for the kids, and then drive to your "relocation center" where the post office is supposed to issue you a change of address form. They also remind you to continue paying the rent back home through the mail or else you will be evicted -- unless failure to pay is "due to circumstances beyond the control of the occupant. At Saratoga, New York, a Civil Defense Olympics was staged in September 1983 to test out these emergency plans. Incongruously, the Olympics plans featured athletic competitions based on official US Civil Defense plans in which typical families compete in sprinting with a pile of 'necessities' to their car, construct emergency shelters in less than 10 minutes, engage in "find the missing family member" games, play 'nuclear freeze tag' (in which everyone wins), and engage in a 'two-headed race' (presumably, the kind of thing that might happen 10 years after a nuclear war). Surprisingly, prizes were to be awarded randomly rather than to the winners, simulating the capriciousness of events during nuclear war. For recreation, participants watched a nuclear fashion show of "designer action wear for the aftermath." (Environmental Action, 9/10/83).

*Younger people have probably forgotten that as long ago as 1955, New York City held mock nuclear air raids, and required all citizens to take cover. Very small groups of people from various pacifist bodies refused to take cover, were arrested and sentenced to up to 30 days in prison. Some of them argued that since the air raids were mock air raids, they should have mock trials and mock sentences to a mock jail, but the imperial powers were not amused (Catholic Worker, 5/83). Yet 30 years later, the US Emergency Management Agency said in 1983 that the State of New York is responsible for its own evacuation planning, while the governor of New York said that the federal government was. Who is in charge here??
In recent years, the US government has been issuing so-called 'bar letters' to certain persons who demonstrated at government facilities. These letters inform the recipients that they are barred from setting foot on certain government properties where they demonstrated. In 1962, a Michigan Quaker, long known to be a pacifist, received such a bar letter which referred to him as 'dangerous.' (Center Peace, 8/7/63). Indeed, non-violent people are probably the most dangerous enemies of the empire.

In March, two pacifists entered the Rocky Flats area during the Easter season and presented a small tree as a symbol of life and hope to the officer who arrested them. The tree was confiscated as evidence, and apparently helped to convict the two women who were fined. (Center Peace, No. 1, 1963).

Ninety-three communities in the US have rejected federal nuclear crisis relocation plans. Maryland is the first state to refuse federal monies for nuclear civil defense altogether. Ten other states have been considering similar measures.

An apartment project in Calgary, Alberta, has been declared a 'nuclear free zone,' and a little old neighborhood store somewhere else put up a sign this store is a nuclear free zone.

The Nuclear Times is a journal devoted entirely to resistance to nuclear weapons. As publications go these days, it is cheap, costing only $15 for 10 issues. It is full of information about war and peace, and the movements (both secular and religious) on their behalf. (29C Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10001)

The Slaughter of the Innocent

When all is said and done, Nestle's policy in underdeveloped nations has been one of making big money from poor people by killing their infants. While some of Nestle's practices have apparently improved, there has apparently not been a change of heart in that Nestle has been unrepentant, admitted no wrongdoing, and apparently made whatever concessions it has made only in response to adversarial approaches against it, including boycotts and adverse publicity.

Bogdan, R., Brown, H. A., & Foster, S. E. (1962). Be honest but not cruel: Staff/parent communication on a neonatal unit. Human Organization, 41(1), 6-16. Bogdan, Brown and Foster (1962) conducted a study of an intensive care neonatal unit. On this unit, infants considered to be nonviable are sometimes referred to as fetuses, and if the prognosis turns out to be wrong, they graduate to being 'very sick babies,' and finally, may branch into categories such as 'chronics,' 'feeders,' 'growers,' or 'good babies.' Severely impaired or nonviable premature babies may also be referred to as 'premie trash,' 'gorks and train wrecks.'

In some instances, where an impaired newborn infant is on the borderline between presumed viability and non-viability, medical staff unilaterally make the decision whether the baby should be treated, and will shift into an active treatment mode only if the parents aggressively take it upon themselves to demand such treatment.

On the very same day during the 1972 Christmas season, two newborn infants only a few hours old were abandoned by their mothers in Houston. One was thrown out of a moving car into a garbage dumpster, and another one was abandoned on the steps of a church. (News item submitted by John Norris)
Malnutrition is increasing in the US—perhaps hard to believe. There appears to be a rise in the proportion of 'failure to thrive' in infants, and 'water intoxication' is increasing because mothers are trying to stretch baby food with water. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome has increased in some disadvantaged groups, such as reservation Indians. Infant mortality has risen in seven states (Sojourners, 11/83).

In December of 1982, UNICEF released a report on hunger among the children of the world, and sent it out in large quantities to the news media by Federal Express at $12 mailing cost each (Syracuse Herald Journal 12/7/82). No wonder the UN does not have enough money to keep children from starving.

The Making of Life—Old & New Ways

Human Mice—icy Humans are Here!

An 11/23 Science cover showed a 'new type' of mouse that had been bred by inserting a human genetic sequence into the mouse genes. The humous (?) was twice the size of its peers.

Scientists can now routinely freeze mouse embryos at minus 196° C and later thaw them back into normal life and implant them successfully into foster mothers. Some such mice have been 'brought back to life' after 5 years in a deep freezer, and scientists believe that the embryos could be revived even after centuries of cold storage (Smithsonian, 5/83). The revivable frozen human embryo will probably be announced any minute.

*Embryonic cells can now be cultured in such a fashion that the cells do not age and become what scientists call 'immortal cells.' The process by which this is accomplished is called 'conversion to immortality' (e.g., Science, 1983, Vol. 221, p. 315). This wording is yet another reflection of the aspirations of many life scientists to make human beings themselves immortal.

*Techniques for performing in vitro fertilization of humans are developing so rapidly that there might be 200 such clinics operating within a year, implanting fertilized ova in perhaps a million women. However, the procedure will remain a very expensive one. It costs about $10,000 to attain not quite a 50% chance of a successful implantation.

*Chromosomes are made up of so-called base pairs. Different species and different chromosomes have different lengths. The smallest yeast chromosome has 150,000 base pairs. Harvard scientists have now constructed artificial chromosomes of up to 15,000 base pairs, and are close to constructing chromosomes of about 50,000 base pairs. Theoretically, it should be possible to construct artificial human chromosomes, and if it is indeed possible to do so, scientists will certainly insist on doing it. One can already see powerful arguments advanced in support of artificial rather than natural chromosomes, because work to date suggests that artificial chromosomes are more stably inherited (Science, 10/7/83).

*So-called genetic engineering has enabled so-called biotechnology firms to 'create' new genetic strains and microorganisms. These firms went before the US Supreme Court to obtain the right to patent these life forms, arguing that all the phenomena of life are either physical or chemical in nature, and are therefore manipulatable and patentable much as are engine designs, ball bearings or a new industrial chemical process. In 1965, The US Supreme Court agreed that 'life is largely chemistry.' This development has still not sunk in with many people, but is perfectly consistent with the Supreme Court's reasonings on abortion, and with
'But I've got to get to each child's home by morning!' The Gynch nodded. 'One of those high case loads, eh? Well every one of our workers in Michigan must deal with over 250 people throughout the year. Successfully delays services and cuts down on compassion and concern. Now YOU wait!' Poor Santa had to wait so long that Rudolph's red nose turned blue, he couldn't guide the sleigh and they all had to head back home.

We wish every family a merry Christmas and urge everyone to write to your governor and state legislators urging them to throw the Gynch out of the Department of Social Services. Demand more workers. Less forms. No welfare cutbacks until our nation reaches full employment.

(First published in The Community Reporter, 1974.)

*Kyrie Eleison. In 1983, one of the major Lutheran bodies called for an end to abortion but refused to condemn the arms race. In contrast, the Presbyterian church in the US called for a nuclear freeze but also for abortion rights. The Southern Baptist Convention passed a resolution that approved nuclear disarmament only if it did not 'compromise the security of our nation,' and then only 'eventually.' The American Catholics are against abortion, and say that nations may wage 'just wars,' and own nuclear arms—but may not use them.

*An 1896 book, entitled Darkness and Daylight: or Lights and Shadows of New York Life, is a gold mine of information and pictures about human misery and services in New York City in the late 1800s. It included the true story of an Irishman in prison who became concerned for his soul and began to pray desperately for 4 weeks. In an hour of prayerful agony in the middle of the night, he suddenly heard a voice saying, 'My son, thy sins, which are many, are forgiven.' The man shouted out, 'Oh praise God, praise God!' Upon this, the guard came up and said 'Shut your noise, what's the matter with you?' 'I found Christ, my sins are all forgiven me,' to which the guard replied soberly, 'I'll report you,' and took his number.

*For hundreds of years, Catholics and members of a few other 'high church' denominations have had available to them a certain prayer and meditation discipline that was called 'the stations of the cross,' involving a small pilgrimage, either along the indoor walls of a church or maybe an outdoor course, at which were posted 14 pictures of the various stages of Christ's passion. At each, one would pause and engage in spiritual exercise appropriate to the station, aided by written instructions in one's prayer book. Today, we have some thoroughly modern successors to this ancient practice, exemplified by a 'parcourse fitness circuit' that actually has eighteen stations, at each of which one is instructed by a poster to engage in certain physical exercises. The posters may even look somewhat like the tablets of the stations of the cross.

*An institution in Ontario recently advertised for what at one time would have been called a chaplain, but is now called 'provision of religious and spiritual counseling.' At one time, such people were expected to have faith in God, but now, their required qualifications are to have a master of divinity degree and familiarization with the principle of normalization. (Source item submitted by Ray Lemay)

*We have been told of a Baptist church in Vancouver that has a separate congregation of handicapped members who meet in the church basement.

*During a religious formation program for physically and mentally handicapped adults, seven of the adults contributed a phrase each to the following remarkable prayer: 'God our Father, we walk to you, day by day, and night by night. We call you Yahweh. Lord, please take care of everyone. We would like to see you some day. We love you and follow your will and mind. Amen.' (NABP Quarterly, Spring 33).
Christmas in the Workhouse
(from Irwin, 1930)

It was Christmas in the workhouse,
Happiest day of all the year,
And the paupers was contented
'Cause their guts was full of beer.

The Master of the workhouse
Strode through the dismal halls,
And cried, 'A Merry Christmas,'
But the paupers answered '-----'

Then angry was the Master,
And he swore by all the gods
That they'd have no Christmas pudding,
The lousy bunch of '-----'

Up spake an aged pauper,
His face was hard as brass,*
"You can take your Christmas pudding, sir,
And '-----'"

A Modern Christmas
by James Breig

"Ho, ho, ho and a bottle of rum. Wait a second, that's not right. Let's try again. 'On Dasher, on Duster, on, Corvette and K-car. That can't be right. Once more: 'On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, five golden arches, four Mastercards, three unpaid bills, two squealing kids and a package to mail UPS.' Oh shucks.

Mutual Disablement or Compassion?

A young woman in a wheelchair is stranded on a city street in front of a high sidewalk curb. Will she be able to mount the curb on her own? After all, modern equipment nowadays is supposed to be enormously capable. Does she want to get up on the curb at all? Is she perhaps waiting for someone? It is hard to tell from her face since it contains neither a question, a plea for help, nor a communicative gesture.

Three steps away stands a middle-aged man who pretends to be studying some posters pasted to a wall. He occasionally steals sideways glances at her, wondering. He says to himself, 'Some years ago, this situation would have been unequivocal to me and I would have known what to do. I would put my hand on the wheelchair and pull it up onto the curb. But today, I no longer know what I'm supposed to do. If I address her, will I be using the right words and tone of voice? Won't this be interpreted as the much-censored false pity that I have heard so much about? What will be her response to an offer of help? Will she disdain or even insult me? I feel absolutely paralyzed in my spontaneity.'

The above situation was sketched in the journal of the German cerebral palsy association (Das Band, 4/93), and accurately depicts another instance of mutual disablement. Misguided souls have so harangued the public, and often set forth such pedantic or even bizarre guidelines, that people have become inhibited, afraid

*Sometimes rendered as:
"Up spake a war-scarred veteran
Who had stormed the Khyber Pass..."
"HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS"

TIPS Editorial Policy. TIPS comes out every other month, and contains articles, news, information, insights, viewpoints, reviews, developments, etc., that relate to the interests and mission of the Training Institute. While TIPS is mostly concerned with phenomena and developments that have to do with human services, it also addresses some of the larger issues which affect our society and the quality of life on earth, as well as the ways in which decisions are made in our society. These higher-order phenomena will eventually express themselves in human services in various ways, including in human service values and funding. Usually a TIPS issue will devote a portion of its space to one specific theme. TIPS will address issues whenever and wherever they occur. Disclosures of adaptive developments promoted, or of dysfunctionalities perpetrated, by a particular party or government should not be taken as partisan political statements. We assume that subscribers are people who lead hard lives struggling against great odds, and are aware of many shortcomings in human services. Thus, we try to inject a bit of levity into TIPS so as to make subscribers' lives more bearable (or less unbearable, as the case may be), even if not deliriously joyful. In fact, some TIPS content is apt to be depressing and in need of occasional levitation. TIPS gets many items from other sources, tries to report developments truthfully, but cannot be responsible for errors contained in original sources. Specific items from TIPS may be reproduced without permission as long as the full TIPS reference is cited/acknowledged, and as long as only small portions of an issue are so reproduced.

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Invitations to Submit Items for Publication. We invite submissions of any items suitable for TIPS. This may include raw clippings, "evidence," reviews of publications or human service "products," human service dreams (or nightmares), service vignettes, aphorisms or apothegms, relevant poetry, satires, or brief original articles. We particularly welcome items that are good news, since bad news seems to come so much easier and more frequently. Send only material you don't need back, because you won't get it back. If we don't goof, and the submitter does not object, submissions that are used will be credited.

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