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Editorial

Speaking Of Billions

(Reprinted from Ontario (Ohio) Tribune, Nov. 17, 1967)

One hears so much these days about "millions" and
 "billions" that it escapes the imagination to try to visual-
 ize how much money they actually mean.

Try this for an explanation:

If a housewife goes shopping 40 hours a week, spend-
 ing \$1,000 an hour, it would take her 25 weeks to spend
 \$1 Million. If she followed the same schedule, spending a
 billion dollars would take her 481 years. How's that for
 an explanation?

Or, another way to tell the difference between a mil-
 lion and a billion, at the same rate of spending, it would
 take a housewife 158,009 years to spend the equivalent of
 the U. S. national debt.

On the other hand, who would want a wife that is
 158,009 years old?

Peace Corps

The Peace Corps volunteers who arrived this week will find that they have come to a grateful and friendly country and their presence here will to some degree repair the American image which has been badly tarnished by that country's involvement in Viet Nam.

The Peace Corps is a noble concept brought to reality, and a fitting memorial to President Kennedy, the most revered of Americans in this part of the world, but the fact remains that the cost of only one of the hundreds of planes lost in Viet Nam would go a long way towards solving Samoa's financial straits, and the cost of four planes would almost eliminate these problems.

Samoa has in the past sought economic aid from the United States and has been turned down. One can not blame Samoans, and people of other underdeveloped nations, for sometimes wondering how much better off they might be if the Americans displayed the same talent and lavish expenditure for peaceful endeavour as they are now displaying for destruction in Viet Nam.

But such expression of unpleasant truths in the face of visitors is ungenerous and definitely not in accordance with Samoan custom. The Peace Corps are needed and welcome here. They come with the highest aims and will find themselves accepted for what they are. As they broaden the outlook of the people among whom they live, they will find that they themselves will acquire more understanding, tolerance and depth of character. As men of good intentions have always found, there will be setbacks and disappointments but as long as they remember to forget that they are Americans among Samoans, but are merely members of the human family whose aspirations towards a fuller life in happiness and tranquillity are the same the world over, the Peace Corps will achieve great good here.

Oh, He Is A Sharp Old Geezer

John Connally has refused to extradite Sergio Arcacha Smith to Louisiana. It may not be important, but Aracacha Smith of Dallas once worked for H. L. Hunt.

Shortly after Republican James Rhodes of Ohio refused Jim Garrison's request of extradition to Louisiana for ex-CIA agent Gordon Novel, billionaire Hunt came out in favor of Rhodes for Vice President on the Republican ticket. Hunt admitted he had never met Rhodes and knew very little about him. "I just heard he was a good man," Hunt mumbled on TV.

The Texas Observer of December 8, 1967, reports that Hunt has announced his support of Republican Senator Frank Lausche of Ohio for the Republican Presidential nomination. Does Hunt want both Republican Presidents to be from Ohio, or is he just trying to make us forget his embarrassing support of Rhodes who continues to protect Novel?

The Purpose Of His Visit

The first visit of an American President to the Pope in Rome is an important event, and just as important is the purpose of the visit.

We believe Johnson had more on his mind than to tell the Pope he hoped for peace. Since Spellman had failed in his effort to name his other successor, we think it is much more likely that Johnson was trying to make sure New York archdiocese of the Catholic Church. Whether the appointment will be liberal or conservative is a significant matter for the church and for our country.

In three years of fighting the United States has been unable to defeat one small Asian nation. Now we have decided to expand the war to fight four small Asian nations.

The military leaders of this nation are madmen.