

Sydney Mayers

VIEWS THE NEWS

Philosophers may question the virtue of doing the right thing for the wrong reason, but perhaps we should not ponder too critically the circumstances causing President Kennedy to exert his influence toward developing freer trade among nations. Since he correctly points out that lowering tariffs will increase production and employment, let us subdue our regret that political expediency prompts his program, rather than political economy.

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Whatever may be the merits of India's claim to the territory of Goa, one's eyebrows arch high and wide at the sight of pacifist Premier Nehru's bellicious resort to armed force to wrest that tiny community from Portugal. Perhaps the key can be found in The New York Times' mention that "Goa has one of the richest deposits of iron ore in Asia, and also has other important mineral resources in manganese and ferromanganese."

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We wonder how frugal Benjamin Franklin would react to the news that one of his portraits, painted in 1787 by David Martin, which was recently donated to the White House, is valued at \$200,000.00. We need not wonder how this value was attained—as in the case of any available commodity, was established in the market-place.

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Having effectively transformed Stalin from demigod to devil, the Soviet Union's current rulers are bestowing similar treatment on Molotov, Voroshilov, Kaganovich and Malenkov, whose once-honored names have been ordered removed from cities, towns, railroad stations, schools and other public places. Do you remember when George

Orwell's "1984," a novel about an official re-writer of history, was considered a fantasy?

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President Macapagal has restored a free economy to the Philippines by a far-reaching order abolishing long-standing government controls, declaring: "We have today taken two great strides, one toward prosperity and the other toward freedom; controls have hampered the economic growth of the country and have been a source of graft." Bravo to this doughty little nation, not only for its valor but for its economic wisdom and vision.

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New York's Mayor Wagner, grandiloquently espousing the cause of federal, state and municipal care for the aged, declaims: "My administration is sponsoring legislation to eliminate the obligation of children to pay for parents' medical and hospital care." Well, shall we formally repeal the Biblical admonition to "honor they father and mother"—or just dismiss it as a corny and clearly outmoded sentiment?

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The United Nations, having declared an all-out and rather expensive war against Katanga (whilst blandly ignoring Goa, Angola, Algeria, Vietnam et. al.), finds itself quite broke, and ingenuously proposes a \$200,000,000.00 bond issue, of which generous Uncle Sam is expected to take half. That these bonds, if issued, will never be honored or paid is obvious and of little present interest or consequence; What does intrigue us, (as we observe the UN's steady decline), is the question of how much "peace, order and harmony among nations" the proceeds of the bonds will buy.