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Quayle struts his stuff

God bless Dan Quayle. The vice president had the temerity to enter the bosom of the American Bar Association and declare the truth: America has too many lawsuits inspired by spurious "rights." Quayle's ABA Address — which, to put it economically, was not well received by its audience — may signal the beginning of a campaign for litigation reform.

This welcome development would come too late to help Utah, which may already be overextended in defending itself against two lawsuits — and may conceivably become involved in another involving the Boy Scouts.

Last week the Boy Scouts of America announced that it would admit as many as 1,000,000 "non-traditional" Scouts — girls, atheists and homosexuals — into an adjunct program called "Learning for Life," which will be presented in public schools. This announcement was meant, in large part, to placate a San Francisco area chapter of the United Way, which had been critical of the Scouts for "discriminatory" policies regarding the "non-traditional" groups in question. The Bay Area chapter of the United Way expressed its dissatisfaction after another chapter in De Kalb County, Illinois had withdrawn financial support from the Scouts as a protest against similar "discrimination."

Following last week's announcement, the Bay Area United Way chapter described itself as pleased with the decision, but let it be known that further concessions from the Scouts would be necessary.

"Learning for Life" was originally intended as a program to help troubled inner-city children. Accordingly, the Provo Scout Council has decided against offering the program, as there aren't any kids in the Provo/Orem area who meet the program's original profile. This is an eminently sensible decision, but it may lead to further legal hassles nonetheless — depending upon the course chosen by critics of the Scouts.

Litigious malcontents are limited only by their intellectual dishonesty: the ACLU, accordingly, enjoys unlimited ambitions. The ACLU's reigning commissar, Ira Glasser, has described the Boy Scouts as a "public accommodation" — like a restaurant, a hotel, or a bus company. It is well within the competence of reasonable people to distinguish between the Scouts and an entity such as a restaurant — but we're dealing with the ACLU, after all, and Glasser's contortions are meant to provide a pretext for litigation.



Will Grigg

AT HOME

If — contrary to all common sense — the Scouts are defined as a "public accommodation," the organization would fall under the jurisdiction of civil rights guidelines that govern other similar "accommodations."

Critics of the Scouts are enchanted with the shibboleth "separate is inherently unequal;" this phrase is extracted from the 1954 Brown decision, in which the Supreme Court mandated integration of public schools. Like the civil rights guidelines breezily invoked by Glasser, the principle embodied in Brown is of questionable relevance to the internal arrangements of a private association like the Boy Scouts.

But those who are persecuting the Scouts are too intoxicated with the catch-phrase to notice the lacuna in their logic. It is doubtful that their case could withstand the scrutiny of the courts, but their tantrums could provoke pre-emptive concessions from the Scouts.

A Salt Lake newspaper, which will remain nameless (a hint: its name is taken from a mid-level political office in imperial Rome) has urged in an editorial that United Way chapters throughout the country should withhold financial support from the Scouts until the organization "Join(s) America in welcoming greater diversity." (This is an oblique accusation that the Scouts are presently un-American.) The editorial cheerfully anticipated the day when "Scout affiliation with the public schools ... might open the door to government intervention in membership policy."

State intervention would liberate the Scouts from the "hidebound tradition" that keeps the organization "exclusively male and predominantly Christian(.)" Once broken to the state's saddle, the Scouts would take their place among other enlightened "government, business, social and civic organizations ... that welcome, rather than deny, diversity."

Does the end of "diversity" sanctify the use of totalitarian means? We have heard from one Utah paper on the subject. We may shortly hear from the local branch of the ACLU.

Nationalism led to

By CHRISTI CONOVER
Herald Staff Writer

A resurgence of nationalism within the Soviet Union led to the recent failed coup attempt, said a Brigham Young University professor Thursday.

Stanley A. Taylor, chairman of the BYU political science department, spoke as part of BYU Education Week, which continues on BYU campus through today.

Taylor defined nationalism as a force of good which binds groups with common backgrounds together. However, nationalism can also be a destructive force which unleashes racial prejudice and stereotyping between groups.

Factors which help nationalism grow include a common past and religion, a shared language, a common ethnic background and

certain geographical bounds, he said.

"Nationalism is the most powerful political force in the world today," Taylor said.

Soviet Union President Mikhail S. Gorbachev was scheduled to sign a union treaty this week which would have given the Soviet Union's 15 republics more independent powers.

To communist hardliners, the treaty indicated a resurgence of nationalism which would destroy the larger entity of the Soviet Union, Taylor said.

"It is this resurgent nationalism that led to the coup days ago," he said.

If the central totalitarianism of the Soviet Union is not enforced, the different republics and even ethnic groups

Businesses to promote networking

By CHRISTI CONOVER
Herald Staff Writer

Provo will join Utah Valley businesses in October for a conference promoting local computer technology which could lead to networking conferences for other industries as well.

The Provo Economic Development Agency, along with Novell Inc. and Computers Made Easy, will host the first annual Small Business Network Computing Conference Oct. 2.

The event is designed to help small businesses receive firsthand knowledge of the benefits of networking, both through computers and business relationships.

"The hope is that the whole computer industry in the valley participates," said Jon Parsons, systems engineer for Novell.

Provo economic development staff feel it is important for small businesses to know what technology is available to them within the valley.

"We've changed our focus recently inward on business retention," said Brent Drew, economic development technician.

"If all the businesses work together, it's going to be better for them," he said.

The conference will also allow companies to showcase their products and reach new markets.

If the conference is a success, Provo will look at developing networking conferences for other industries such as manufacturing and retailing.

"This is definitely testing the waters," Drew said.

Cost for the conference is \$25 per person or \$20 for two or more persons sent from any company. The conference will begin at 8 a.m. and run until 6 p.m. Those wanting to register or obtain more information may call Cassi at Computers Made Easy, 377-9964; or Brent Drew at Provo Economic Development, 379-6160.



Corbin Roper, left, at his sweet corn stand near 2600 North ... and his father, G

Juab County faces higher taxes

By MYRNA TRAUTVIEIN
Herald Correspondent

NEPHI — Property owners face higher taxes this fall because of a state court decision, three experts told Juab County residents this week.

County Commissioners invited Cary Peterson, state senator, S. Blaine Willes, commissioner with the Utah State Tax Commission,

In 1984 the state Supreme Court found the reduction legal. However, railroads and transportation companies come under federal laws which do not allow them to be assessed differently from other properties.

In 1990 the Legislature basically removed most of the 20 percent adjustment allowed in 1981, said Vanier. The result was that

the state had an indefensible stand. Intangible values could not be granted to county-assessed property and not to state-assessed properties.

"The courts started the ball rolling and the Legislature finished it," he said. The state had a potential liability the way things were, he said.

One thing the Legislature did

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