

THE CARROLL RECORD
(NON-PARTISAN)

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All articles on this page are either original or properly credited. This has always been a fixed rule with this office. All advertisements for 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th pages must be in our office by Monday morning of each week; otherwise, insertion cannot be guaranteed until the following week.

The publication in The Record of clipped or signed editorials does not necessarily mean that such editorials are endorsed by The Record. In many instances they are published in order to show varying opinions on public topics.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1966

PENTAGON BUYING AND SELLING

Let's say you are a contractor and you're building a house on the edge of town. One morning you drive out to see how things are coming along but work is at a standstill. Carpenters, plumbers and electricians are standing around doing nothing and when you ask why they tell you their tools are gone.

Then along comes Joe Doakes, the foreman. He looks remarkably cheerful and when you ask about the missing tools he says, "It's okay, boss. I was able to buy them back. They're in the back of the truck. Most of them anyway." Wondering, you ask for the story and get it.

Last Friday, after the men knocked off for the week-end a fellow came along and offered fifty bucks for all the tools and equipment. So Doakes accepted the offer. But Sunday he began thinking that the men would be needing them the next day so he figured he'd better get them back. And he did — for only a thousand dollars, of your money.

We don't know what you'd do in such a case but we can think of a few contractors who'd fire a foreman like that and probably call the cops. Indeed, it's hard to imagine such a thing happening, which is why we're still wondering about a recent news item concerning our Pentagon.

This zany story broke when Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara held a news conference to answer charges of "shocking mismanagement" made by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, of Michigan. Part of his rebuttal of the Congressman's charges dealt with the sale of 7,562 bombs to a German concern in 1964. The nitrate in the big 750-pounders was to be used for fertilizer and the price was \$1.70 apiece.

But the war in Vietnam built up and our B-52's there recently started running out of bombs. Then somebody remembered about the bombs we had sold and steps were taken to get them back.

Despite Secretary McNamara's remark at the press conference, "I would certainly hope that we aren't paying more for them than we sold them for," the facts were otherwise. Uncle Sam had to hand over \$114,500 to get back 5,570 bombs. The price had jumped from \$1.70 to \$21 apiece.

Scripture tells of a peaceful world in which swords are turned into plowshares. The Pentagon goes further and arranges to turn our bombs into fertilizer, with a war staring us in the face. Could the peace-loving Buddhists of Saigon and Berkeley ask for more?

—U.S. Press Association

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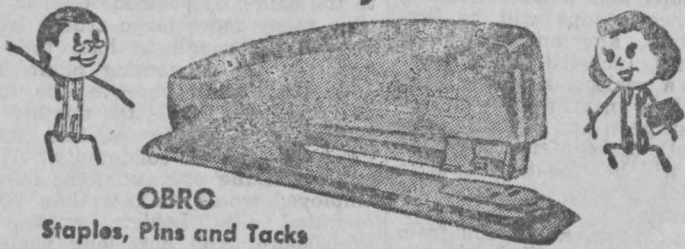
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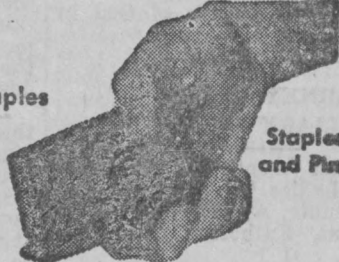


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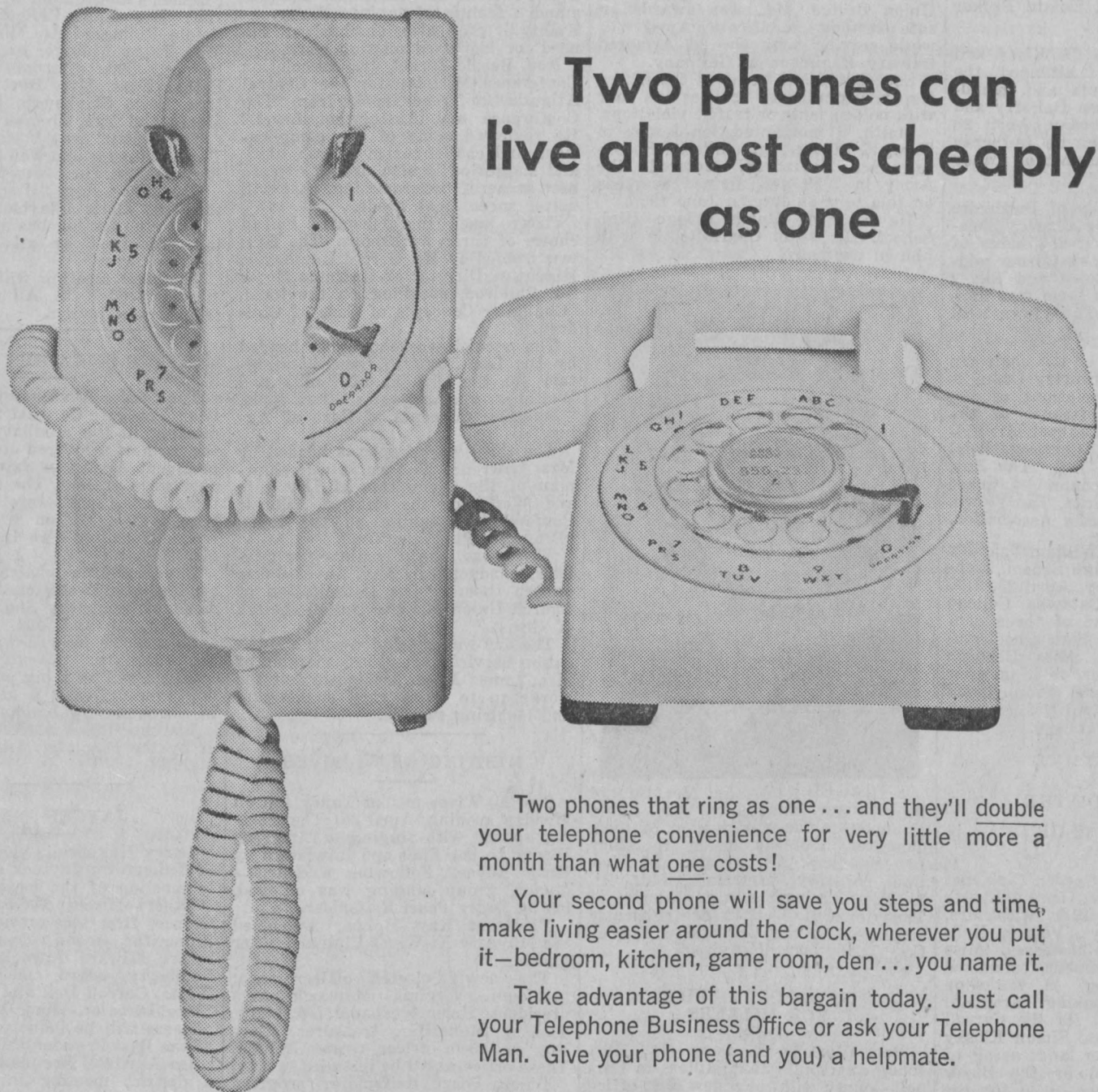
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BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Man Above Law
Lesson for May 1, 1966

Background Scripture: 1 Kings 21.
Devotional Reading: Psalm 33:1-12.

The long-ago Romans who spoke in Latin have left us some neat little phrases or proverbs which say a lot in a few words. LEX REX (or) REX LEX is one of these. Literally that means LAW IS KING (or) THE KING IS THE LAW.



There you have opposite theories of government. One says: The law is supreme, and even highest officers of state must recognize this. The other de-

Dr. Foreman clares that the King (or we would say, the President or the Mayor or the Boss) is the law; what he says or what he wants done, is the highest law there is.

There is a story in the Bible that brings this out.

Sulking king

When King Ahab went to bed in the daytime, turned his face to the wall and refused his meals, he was sick with a common disease: envy, complicated by covetousness. It is a disease of the mind, and none of us is immune. This was in the days before zoning laws, and so one of the king's neighbors was a property owner named Naboth who had a small piece of land which he used for a vineyard. King Ahab wanted that land for a vegetable garden. Naboth would not sell it to him. Then why didn't the King take it anyway? Because the ancient law of the land forbade it. A man, no matter how poor and obscure, had the right under the law to keep his own land and refuse to sell it, even to a king. LEX REX. The King didn't deny the supremacy of law, he didn't like the law. Bad King and bad man as he was, he recognized that the law was higher than the King.

Jezebel was a devil

The story might have ended there, if it had not been for Ahab's Queen Jezebel. The upshot of it all was that Ahab took his wife's advice. There is no sin, of course, in taking your wife's advice, provided she is a good and wise woman. Jezebel was neither. Law meant nothing to her. "Take the man's vineyard," she said. There is one way you can "legally" get him: have him executed, confiscate his vineyard. But what crime has Naboth committed? None, but one can be manufactured. So letters were forged and perjurers were hired, and Naboth was hanged for a crime he never would have thought of committing. This of course was devilish advice; but Ahab, eaten for the bone with envy, was ripe for the devil's picking. By the use of falsehood and murder he committed theft on one of his loyal neighbors and citizens. REX LEX, the King is Law. There is no law that a king may not break. That is what a king is: one whose will is law, one who "lives above" the law, beyond its reach. According to an old church tradition, that is why the devil left heaven (he is called a "fallen" angel). He was kicked out for wanting to be God.

Playing God

Be that as it may, devil or no devil, there are many human beings who follow that bad example and act as if they were superior to all laws. They try to play God, though they may not be conscious of what they are doing.

You do not have to travel 100 miles before you will meet someone... perhaps even a church member... who will argue that the Ten Commandments are out of date, that we have outgrown them. Now there are some laws that men make and men may rightly change; but there are other laws, more important laws, which men may not change. They are laws of God, and not subject to repeal. There is only one person who has the right to suspend or repeal the Ten Commandments, and that is God. And he has never revoked one of them yet.

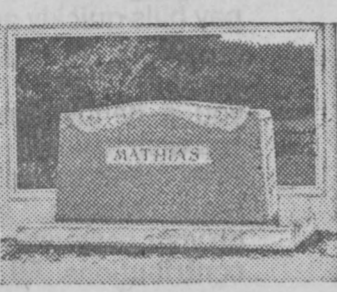
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