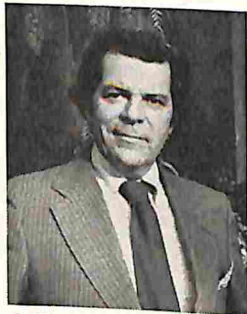


A Letter from the Publisher

For this week's cover story on the California tax revolt and its national repercussions, TIME's correspondents and editors had to deal with a maze of figures about property taxes, assessments and the often stunning jump in real estate prices. For some correspondents, the statistics were academic and provoked only a mild incredulity. But for Los Angeles Bureau Chief William Rademaekers and Correspondent Joe Kane, the figures were a grim reality: as recent initiates to the California housing scene, they shared the experience and understood the bristling anger of many of the residents they interviewed.

Rademaekers had a typical Southern California tale of woe. Assigned to TIME's Los Angeles bureau last year, he immediately started house hunting. The experience, he says, was "much like wading gently into an acid bath—a surprising renewal of shock and agony at every turn." After a six-month search, he settled for a two-bedroom "cottage" in West Hollywood. The price: \$120,000. No sooner had he moved in and started feeding the gaping koi in his fish basin than he faced the prospect of having his \$3,700 property tax raised to well over \$5,000.



California Property Owners Rademaekers and Kane



For Kane, finding a place near Los Angeles last autumn was also traumatic. His choice: a four-bedroom ranch in the west San Fernando Valley, an hour's drive from the bureau. His house, for which he paid \$89,000, stands beside an identical one for which his neighbor paid \$29,950 in 1964. Without Proposition 13, Kane's taxes, now \$1,441, would probably have gone to \$3,565 after next year's assessments. Said Kane: "Even out here in the magic kingdom of Disneyland, a man's home is his castle. But that is no reason to tax it that way, especially when you have to gift wrap the trash to get it picked up." All of this seemed a mite histrionic to TIME's Senior Writer Ed Magnuson, who wrote the story in New York. Magnuson has bought half a dozen houses in eight years, all of them among the granite and evergreen hills of New Hampshire. Each time, his wife Mae and a skilled craftsman have fixed up the homestead, to see it sold at a profit. Currently, the Magnusons reside in the town of New London, N.H., in a four-bedroom house for which they paid \$59,000 last autumn. The taxes are under \$800. Muses Magnuson: "Considering that New Hampshire has no sales tax or state income tax, I guess that's not too bad."

Jack Meyers

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Letters

Cauthen on Top

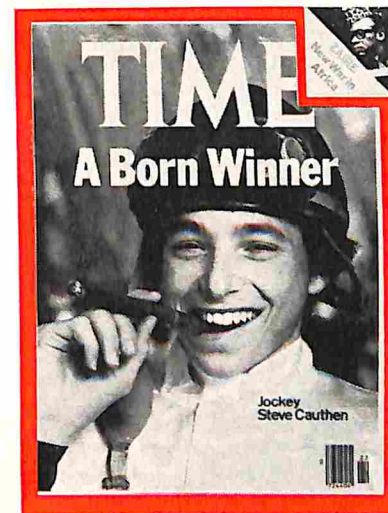
To the Editors:

Steve Cauthen [May 29] has the enduring qualities of a new national hero. He has shown us that the seemingly rare combination of youth, hard and honest work, love and true talent is alive, well and at the top.

Leslie E. McBain
San Leandro, Calif.

At 18 years, Steve Cauthen has put more energy and devotion into his career than most will in their lifetime. A born winner? Steve will be the first to tell you that there's just no such thing.

Alice C. Petersen
Seattle



Congratulations to Steve Cauthen for achieving the ultimate at age 18, but I think a little credit is due to the horse.

Cheryl T. Smith
Rockford, Ill.

With so few young heroes let alone old ones today, you had to obliterate the image by sticking that cigar in his mouth. Whoever was responsible for that one should be kicked by Affirmed.

Shirley J. Crenshaw
Sheridan, Ore.

Zaïre Invasion

The wanton and brutal murder of unarmed white civilian women and children in Zaïre [May 29] should give all the liberal do-gooders, who are blindly supporting the black terrorists and advocating black majority rule for South Africa and Rhodesia, cause for concern.

Ed Crawford
Gaithersburg, Md.

Despite our post-Viet Nam aversion to direct military involvement of any sort, the Zaïre invasion by Marxist rebels seems another oblique push from Mother Russia, and one which will necessitate

action if similar activities continue to occur. The question is when will Jimmy Carter draw the line on this conspicuous, albeit indirect, Soviet expansionism?

John W. Langstaff
Tampa, Fla.

Plane Vote

I salute Senator Abraham Ribicoff for his courageous stand in voting for the war-plane package [May 29] against a pressure-packed Jewish lobby.

Senators Javits and Church certainly showed their true colors. Little wonder the polls reflect a great distrust of politicians; our Senate deserves better.

Frank J. Toney
Tampa, Fla.

Speaking from the standpoint of a Jew, I can only say after reading about Abe Ribicoff's fight for Carter's Middle East plane package: With Jews like him, who needs anti-Semites?

Elizabeth Rogers
San Carlos, Calif.

The '60s

Writer Donald Morrison must have been on Mars during the '60s to describe that period as "a simpler age of love, peace and tolerance" [May 22].

Anyone who observed the total hostility and hatred of many of the antiwar element directed against those who disagreed with their views, or remembers the violence and destruction in the name of peace knows the '60s were not an age of "peace, love or tolerance."

Phil Jenkins
Orange Park, Fla.

Although I am too young to remember 1968, I envy the many who were part of, as you put it, "the strange cats in flowers, beads and headbands." Just as any grandmother or grandfather will tell you that their best days were spent during the Depression, anyone who was 18 and living it up in 1968 will tell you they spent their better days at this time.

B.C. Robbins
Ballston Spa, N.Y.

Bisexual Yankee?

The Connecticut legislature has tried hard to be nonsexist when it changed the word girls to folks in its new state song, Yankee Doodle [May 29]. The lyric "and with the girls be handy" has always conjured up the picture of Yankee Doodle as something of a ladies' man. What is he now, bisexual? I didn't think Connecticut was that liberal.

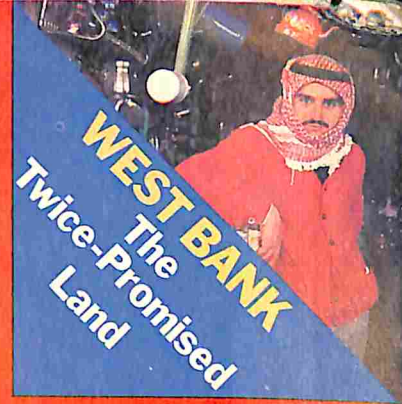
Dennis Frazier
Evansville, Ind.

In response to "The Trivial State of the States," I am somewhat heartened by Frank Trippett's observation that our

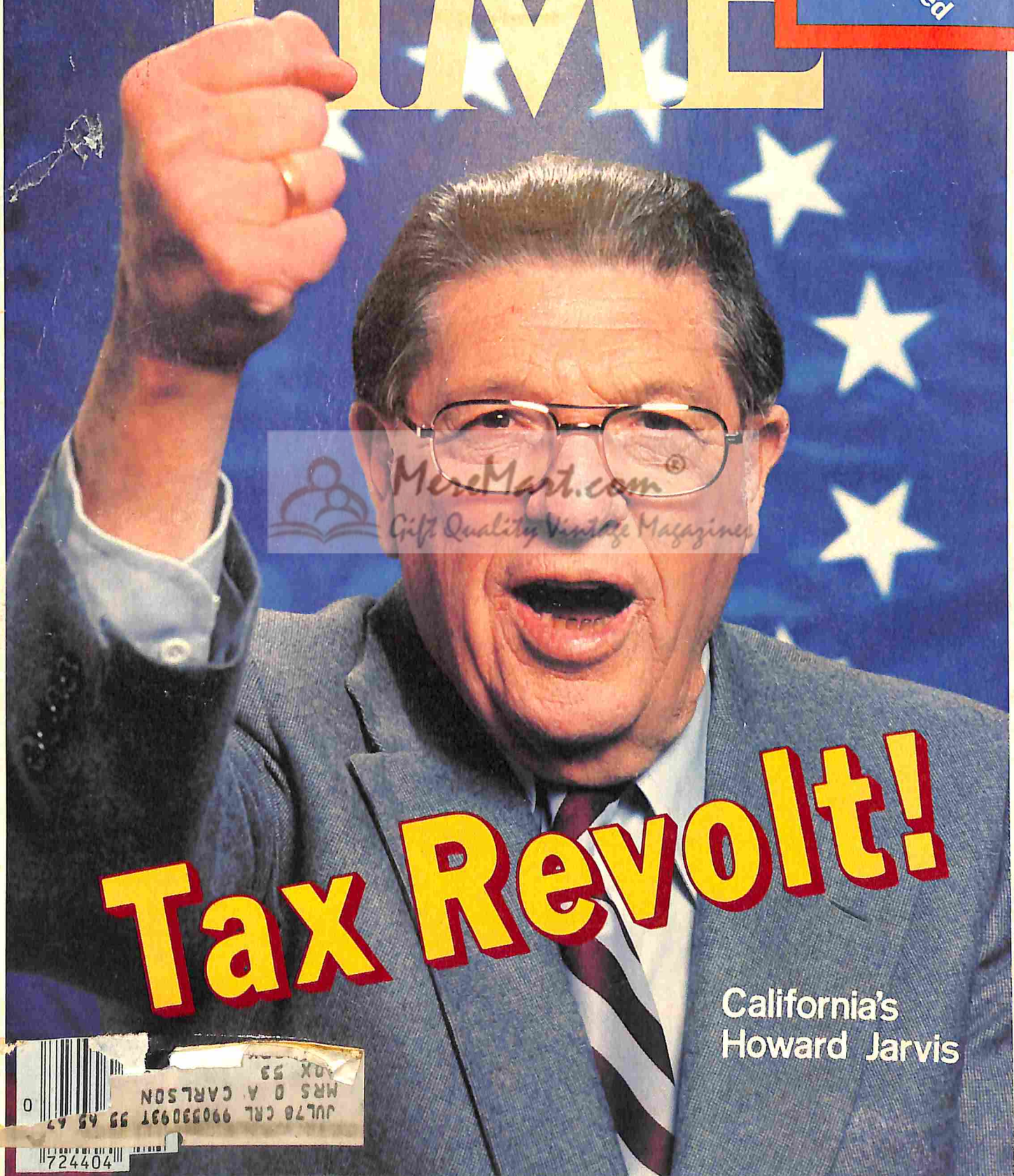
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