

Address:

On - September 10, 1973

To - Joint International Longshoremen & Warehousemen's
Union of San Francisco and to the LAFAYETTE CLUB

A city, any city can take one of several approaches to the future; whichever approach it takes not only effects the citizens of today but also greatly effects the children of tomorrow - the citizens of tomorrow.

San Francisco, like any other major city, has that choice, and before we get too far down any route we must be sure that it is the route we really want to travel. The present leadership seems to have taken the money route: bigness and wealth. They would like to be remembered as making San Francisco a major money center: a big bank book. The trouble with this approach is that there is no way whatsoever that this city can ever gain anywhere near the wealth that the New Yorks, the Chicagos have. No matter how much we try we will always be somewhere down on the list. If someone ever wants to add up the bank accounts of our cities New York is always going to come out on top.

Or, our city could take the route of becoming the seat of learning. But, there is no way will be able to surpass the Boston's...there are just too many great universities throughout the land. We can never become the seat of learning.

Then there is the route that for some reason or other no major city has ever tried. That is the route that has little room for political pay-offs, deals...that is the route that leaves little in the way of power politics...that is the route of making a city an exciting place for all to live: not just an exciting place for a few to live! A place for the individual and individual rights. There is no political gain in this non-monied ~~route~~ ^{route}, and, thus you do not find people with high political ambitions leading this way. There are no statistics to quote... no miles of highways built to brag about, no statistics of giant buildings built under your administration. What you have instead is a city that breaths, one that is alive and where the people are more important than highways.

How does this route stand with our present leadership? They are more impressed with statistics than with life. I want a city that is not trying to become a great bankbook.

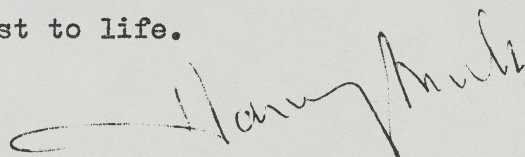
San Francisco can start right now to become number one. We can set examples so that others will follow. We can start overnight. We don't have to wait for budgets to be passed, surveys to be made, political wheelings and dealings... for it takes no money...it takes no compromising to give the people their rights...it takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no political deal to give people freedom. It takes no survey to remove repression.

We can start immediately by rereading the Constitution of the United States. We can start immediately by no longer trying to legislate morality. The Constitution calls for the separation of the church and the state...and, yet we find that our legislators end up spending millions of dollars and years of their lives legislating morality...that money, that time, that energy should be spent in making the city a place for all people. When our Supervisors are more concerned about tearing down a freeway than dental care for the elderly or child care centers, when our Supervisors are more concerned about the Muni driver's benefits and not the least bit concerned about improving service for the riders, when our Supervisors are more concerned about building a multi-million dollar tourist and convention center instead of putting that money into an "Operation Bootstrap" to teach the unemployed of San Francisco skills so that there will not be the need to rely on the tourist for jobs, when our Supervisors realize that the best way to attract visitors is not through convention centers but through giving the people of San Francisco real job opportunity so that we can beat poverty, when such a conscious takes place, when such a human sense of priorities gains hold we will indeed be number one.

We can start immediately by giving the people of San Francisco and not the people who live in Marin first priorities....we can start immediately by giving the people who live here and not the tourists first priorities. When we hire someone from outside the city to work for the city that person takes our tax money and spends it in Marin...he can not be loyal towards the city for he does not live here. The rent he pays, the food he buys, the products for his home...all that is purchased with San Francisco tax money from business outside the city. He does not understand the problems of the city...how could he...he does not live here at nighttime. To make the city a better place...to lower the city's unemployment rate all city employees must be residents of the city. The policeman who works in the city during the day is not involved in the city's nighttime problems. Right now San Francisco

has seen an increase in the police force, an increase in the police budget, an increase in stolen cars, an increase in burglary and a decrease in our population! Why? Two reasons: 1. many police do not live in the city...I never want to hear what I heard last week...a police officer in the downtown sector made this comment to me: "I wouldn't live in this city if you paid me!"...We do pay him! The second reason is that half of the police budget and effort is wasted on trying to enforce victimless crime laws...that is like trying to bring back Prohibition ! All prohibition did was to create the greatest crime waves and syndicates this country has ever had...and it created a lot of murder. AND ALL IN THE NAME OF MORALITY!! Can't we learn? It was the moralist of the 20's that created Crime Inc., and now these same moralistic types are once again, in their blindness to force their morality on others, creating organized crime...can they not learn? Do they ever read history? Because of the failure of their family, of their church they are attempting to make the police force into ministers while crimes against victims increases...this false morality is against the Constitution. If they do not like the Constitution let them amend it. Let them scrape the Declaration of Independence and in the meantime let them go back to God with their morality and become ministers.. true ministers. Instead of spending time trying to get the death penalty passed let them reread the Ten Commandments. Let them teach the Commandment: Thou Shall Not Kill. I know of no Commandment that says Thou Shall Not Smoe Marijuana. I know of no Commandment that says: Thou Shall Not Read Dirty Books. I know of no Commandment that says: Thou Shall Not Walk Around Naked. Why are they such moralists when it comes to man-made Commandments and such anti-moralists when it comes to God's Commandments?

Let me have my tax money go for my protection and not for my prosecution. Let my tax money go for the protection of me. Protect my home, protect my streets, protect my car, protect my life, protect my property. Let my minister worry about my playing bar dice. Let my minister and not some policeman worry about my moral life. Worry about gun control/ and not marijuana control....worry about dental care for the elderly and not about hookers...worry about child care centers and not about what books I might want to read...worry about becoming a human being and not about how you can prevent others from enjoying their lives because of your own inabilities to adjust to life.


Harvey Milk