

The Worry Clinic

Eric wants some advice to help the 8,000,000 young voters in 1964 who were too young to cast their ballots in 1960. So discuss the fallacies and political trickery used by politicians, as outlined below.

CASE P-430: Eric G., aged 28, is an insurance executive "Dr. Crane," he began, "you have mentioned that eight million young people will come of voting age by 1964 who were too young to cast their ballots in 1960.

"Even if only 50% of them vote, that means 4,000,000 entirely new voters.

"And President Kennedy won by less than 115,000 in 1960; So please outline some of the common fallacies in logic to help these young people."

Common Fallacies

First, we might mention the "Either-Or" fallacy which is simply a version of the old two-horned dilemma.

Recently the government used this to socialize American medicine by suggesting that "either" Uncle Sam must become a doctor "or" old people would all die, screaming in pain and without any aid from physicians or dentists.

Actually, every American already has access to private medical insurance firms or to charity hospitals.

And whenever Uncle Sam takes over ANY function that formerly was offered by private concerns, Uncle Sam pays no taxes.

So the less Uncle Sam runs our lives, the more private firms will still be on the local tax assessor's books.

A variation of this "Either-Or" is also the "Good vs. Bad" dilemma.

The Peace Corps is a typical example. It is not a choice of "good" vs. "bad" but of "good" vs. "better" plans.

Those opposed to the \$60,000,000 spent on 9,000 Peace Corps volunteers did not deny it would do some good.

But they argued that the churches could have sent 10 times as many teachers and missionaries into those undeveloped foreign countries for that same cost.

Besides, when Uncle Sam

invades the function of the churches, he is violating the intent of our Founding Fathers just as much as when he tries to run farms or steel mills in competition with us taxpayers.

The "hasty generalization" is a second fallacy which involves too quick conclusions from inadequate facts.

A third fallacy is called the "ad hominem" wherein a man's logic is sidestepped by trying to besmirch the man personally.

As an example, you may recall the report that Presi-



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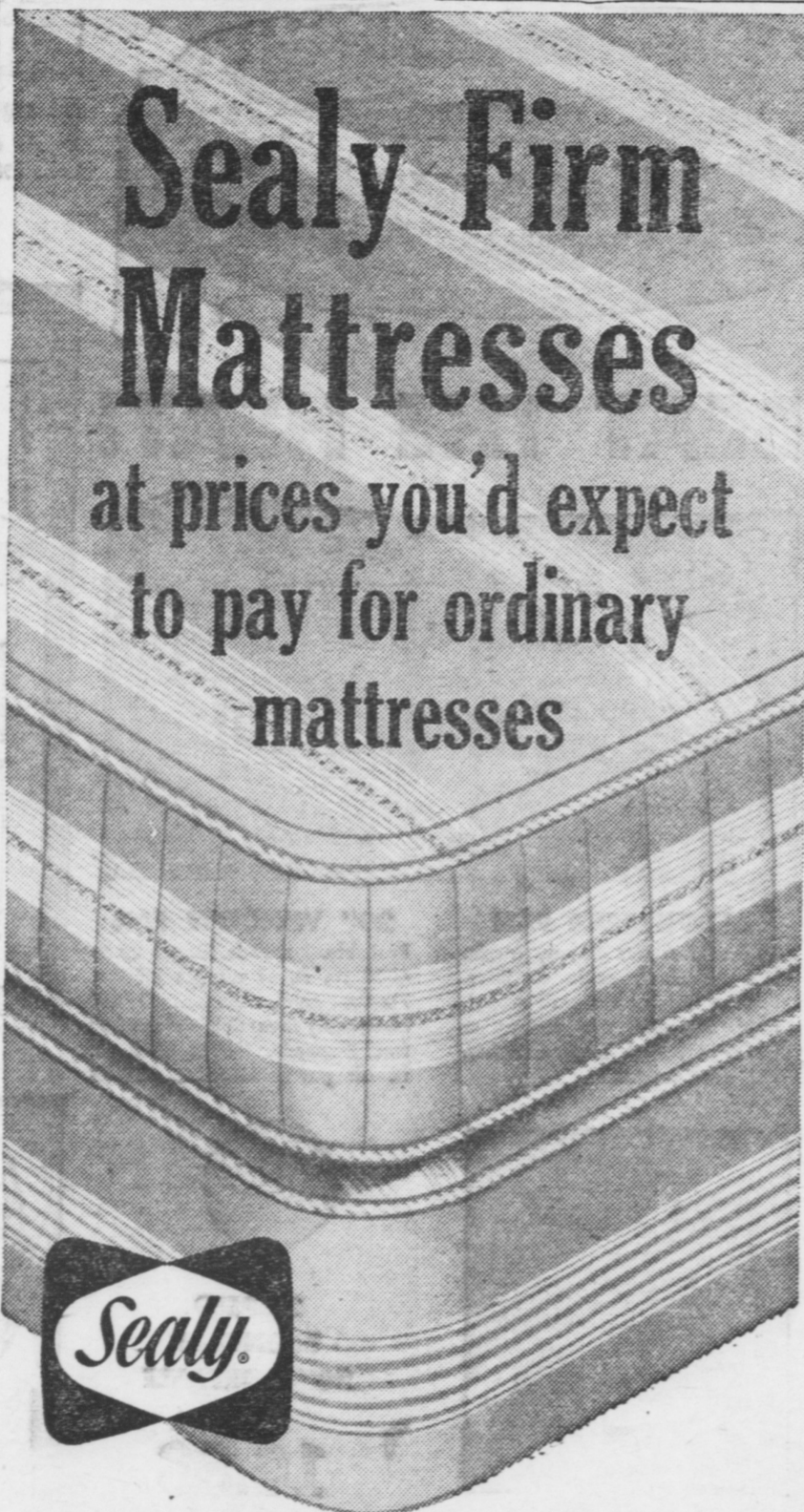
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