

Common sense

The current controversy to increase the Centre County court system from one judge to two is a battle between statistics, politics and common sense.

Statistics indicate that the population of the county is large enough to warrant two judges. Politicians and local lawyers say a second judge is needed to combat overcrowding in the court.

The current judge, R. Paul Campbell, says no backlog of cases exists in the county. Therefore, he says, there is no reason to subject taxpayers to

the additional \$245,000 another judge would cost.

Campbell's explanation for local politicians and lawyers pushing for the extra judge seems credible.

He says lawyers would like the opportunity of "judge shopping" that another judge would bring, as well as the "100 per cent increase" in the chance of a local lawyer in becoming the second judge.

The bill which would add the judge has passed the State Judiciary Committee and now faces debate in the Senate.

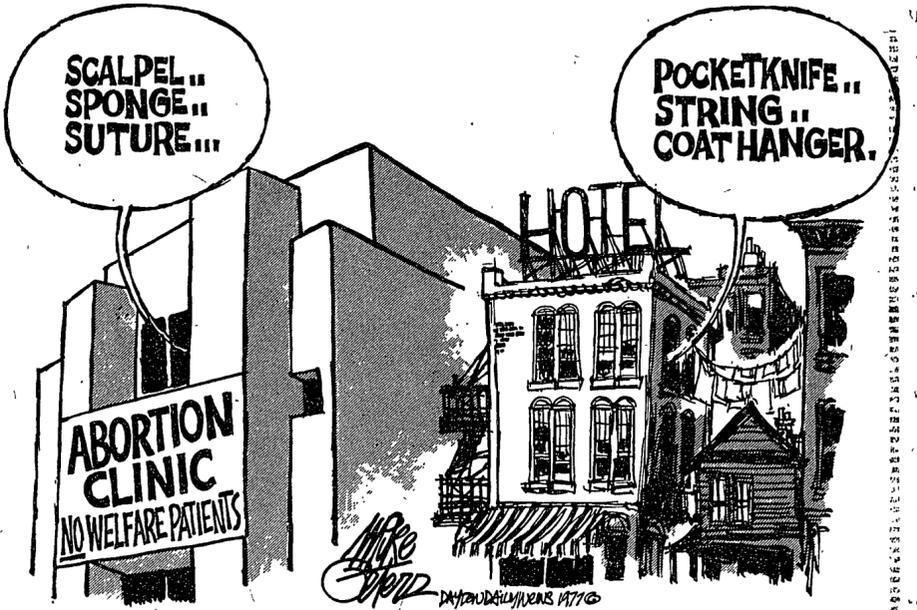
Because the bill is based on

statistical data and not court performance or the number of backlogged cases, a second judge may not be needed in Centre County.

Increasing the number of judges might only increase state taxes, not improve judicial services.

State legislation in Centre County and in all counties should evaluate the situation and suggest a new criteria for increasing the number of judges.

An increase should be according to need, not statistics. Let common sense prevail.



"MR. PRESIDENT, YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW CONGRESS WORKS!"



Secretary Vance: No wallflower

By BARRY SCHWEID
Associated Press-Writer

No one has yet called Cyrus Vance the "Lone Ranger" of American diplomacy, which was Jimmy Carter's poke at Henry Kissinger during the presidential campaign.

Nor could Vance be properly accused — as Carter accused Kissinger — of being caught up in a "one-man policy of international adventure."

But the secretary of state hasn't turned out to be a stay-at-home wallflower, as it seemed he might be when Carter introduced him to the nation last December and Vance said he believed deeply in "delegating responsibility to the maximum extent possible."

He's logged 60,000 official overseas miles in his first five months as secretary of state — not all that much less than Kissinger's 87,000 miles over the same span.

He has hit the same major ports of call

as Kissinger — the Middle East, Moscow, and, in August, Peking — as well as the minor ones: Iran, Spain and Organization of American States sessions.

But he hasn't attracted anything near the acclaim — and criticism — of Kissinger, who had the overreaching habit of operating the State Department out of his hip pocket.

Carter has parceled out authority over foreign affairs to Vance, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Walter Mondale, Andrew Young, even to his own wife — and carefully retained a lot for himself.

And unlike Kissinger, who held on tightly, Vance has subordinates like Philip Habib and Anthony Lake on the road occasionally.

The comfortably battered brown fedora he wears and the shrinking press sign-up list for his trips tell it all: Vance is not the sort of fellow who generates excitement.

Kissinger couldn't leave the press

alone on long flights. Back to their compartment he would bounce, amusing, informing and also polishing his image.

He would speak off the record or through a "senior official" — who couldn't be held accountable, of course, if things turned out differently than reporters were led to believe.

Vance permits a quick round of questions and responds "on the record" — for attribution. His comments are lawyer-like, careful, without the scope of Kissinger's and not remotely as colorful or quotable.

It's a little early for an assessment. But, so far, he has not left a personal impact on any of the major foreign policy issues — nuclear weapons limitations, the Middle East, relations with the Soviet Union and China.

This summer may mark a turning point.

In July he is due to tour the Middle East, trying to nudge Israel and the

Arab states closer to a settlement.

In August he will be in China, trying to enhance the accommodation with the Communist regime in Peking that Kissinger helped initiate.

In September, at the United Nations in New York, he will try to reach an agreement on weapons controls with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko.

And somewhere along the way he and Gromyko will have another whack at the arms problems.

All in all, considerably more activity than one would expect from a man who declared when he was named to the job:

"I have had some experience in negotiating in the past and when necessary I would expect to do that."

"But, I would hope in the first instance, and in many instances, that this could and would be done by the people who have been picked as negotiators, and that it would be unnecessary for the secretary of state to get involved."

Letters to the Editor

Justice?

We see clearly where educational priorities are when the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania State University, Inc., as a mere formality, appropriates 4.5 million dollars to improve Beaver stadium, and, at the same time, we are told of the necessity for program cuts, as the administration excuses its failure to rehire Dr. Jo-Ann Farr because of lack of funds. Of course, we are urged to write to our legislators, encouraging increased or-and continued funding of this institute of higher something.

It is clear that so-called justice is not at all equal when we read that our local government officials very seriously consider prosecution of the perpetrators of the Elmer Toad mystery, while Richard Nixon and his cohorts make money writing books as they serve minimal sentences — if that — in minimum-security prisons, of course, at their convenience.

Some of our legislators call for a fetal rights amendment to the Constitution (Phila. Inquirer, 24 June, 1977), which would prohibit all abortions. U.S. District Court judge Gerhard Gesell rules that "an individual's right to privacy does not

extend to homosexual conduct . . ." (The Militant, June 17, 1977, p. 24); exactly what "rights" are, and who is to be privileged with these so-called "rights" is not at all clear to me. Obviously, privacy is a privilege, to be extended only to those who are the same as the persons who are writing and interpreting the laws.

Liberty and justice for all? No way. This country is rapidly becoming a place where only some are free, and many are more equal than others.

Jean C. Guertler
graduate-solid state science

Farr fetched

In a tirade of insipid discourse, Jean C. Guertler has advised students in a letter to the Collegian (June 29) to boycott courses offered by the Department of Psychology on the grounds that the dismissal of Dr. Jo-Ann Farr was unfair both to Dr. Farr and to her students.

I personally find all the uproar about Dr. Farr's demise both ironic and not altogether unamusing.

Comparatively speaking, Dr. Farr was treated with kid gloves by this University. At least she was told the truth and guaranteed due process (in contrast to any number of other tenure and promotion situations). She was hired for a specific period of time and advised that her tenure with the University beyond that period was in no way guaranteed. Dr. Farr agreed to these terms. Her refusal of a part-time contract offer was made, I assume, after a pragmatic examination of self-interest.

Yet, Ms. Guertler disparages those students "who will claim that they 'can't possibly afford' to boycott psych courses; apparently, the issue is not really all that important to these people."

Apparently, Ms. Guertler, the issue is not really all that important to Dr. Farr either, or she would have been willing to make such a sacrifice.

Michael Anesko
college of arts and architecture
editorial assistant

Radically amazing

Amazing. I write one letter urging my fellow students to strengthen themselves by co-operative political action and I find myself rebuffed on every side by leftists espousing revolutionary doctrine. But I should've expected this because these "revolutionaries" or "crusaders" don't really give one damn about society or even our student body.

What do they holler for? To find their own identity, they use us as their guinea pigs for attention-seeking devices. When they riot or when they picket, who pays? Sure, we do by losing our credibility with our legislature and our society in general; they often think that a small minority of the lunatic fringe are representative of us and the student rights cause.

I'm sick and tired of Eichman and his "comrades" ruining these noble causes by self-righteous excesses, but I know they won't listen. They're too glad that violence and disruption will gain them the notoriety that they feel will motivate government to hear the cries of a decadent society.

Sure, folks; sit back and let them represent you while they bust windows and skulls for the "good of the people."

I do agree with you on one thing, Eichman: Society has to start fighting its way into the political process. They can begin by shaking off the violent shackles of phony saviors such as these revolutionaries and they can start taking interest in civic affairs.

I know that's tough when you don't have anything to eat; I only hope that they can resist the bloody, egotistical motives of the revolutionaries.

Eichman says that we should "fight in any way you know;" I urge my fellow students to find progress through peace. Am I too unenlightened or naive to understand why a policeman's death should be applauded while a pauper's death should be pitied? I thank God for my "half-dead mentality," Eichman; at least half of it still respects human life.

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5th-political science

the Collegian

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Air bags issue inflating again as federal government wavers

About three months ago, Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams overruled his predecessor, William T. Coleman, and announced that he was re-opening the possibility that the government might require air bags as mandatory equipment in all U.S. made automobiles, thus inflating the controversial issue once again.

The first time the Federal government proposed mandatory "passive restraints" (air bags) was in 1969. In the eight years since, the proposal has been studied, re-studied, postponed and postponed again.

And while the government vacillates, thousands of Americans have needlessly died and hundreds of thousands of others have suffered serious, crippling injuries. Hopefully, Adams realizes the urgency of the matter and moves towards making the air bag mandatory equipment.

Highway accidents are a common phenomenon in America. So much so that there are few of us who haven't been touched by the loss or injury of a relative or friend due to an auto accident. The 55-mile-per-hour speed limit and other safety improvements have helped, but

the annual death toll remains uncomfortably high at 45,000 with an additional 400,000 being injured each year.

Since being patented in 1952, air bags have been installed in 12,000 cars, and the results to date indicate they are dependable and effective in frontal and front-angle crashes, for which they were designed. If all American cars were equipped with air bags an estimated 12,000 lives could be saved a year as well as vastly reducing the injury rate.

Bill DePaolo

In addition, there would be a substantial savings in auto insurance premiums. Richard G. Chilcott, a representative of Nationwide Insurance Co., has said that his firm is allowing policyholders whose cars are equipped with air bags 30 per cent off for personal injury, medical payments and family compensation. So what's holding up the works?

Ironically it is the general public, who haven't forgotten the horrendous buzzzzzzzz of the safety belt interlock system that prevented an engine from starting until the seat belts were fastened.

Indeed, Americans have made it clear that they disdain government meddling with their automobiles. And Detroit couldn't agree with them more. Both reserve the right to choose for themselves.

Admittedly that freedom would be forfeited if the Department of Transportation mandated the air bag system. It is, however, a small sacrifice to make when one considers the thousands that would be spared by such a measure.

Saving lives outweighs all other arguments. Need we wait for the tragedy to strike closer to home before we realize it? So onward, Adams, let's get the air bags off the shelf and on the road where they will do the most good.

See story on page eight for recent developments in the air bag controversy.

