

EDITORIAL

a desperate need

□ The frontier town melee which occurred in Dallas recently is additional evidence (if indeed additional evidence is needed) that the Back Mountain community can no longer tolerate the horse and buggy police protection to which it is accustomed.

When it became apparent that seven or eight carousers were becoming increasingly abusive to passersby and showed little intention of leaving Dallas's Main Street peaceably, special policeman Willard Newberry attempted to contact Dallas Borough police. The policeman on duty, Sev Newberry, was attending a hearing in Kingston Township and was not immediately available. Attempts to contact Police Chief Honeywell at his home were unsuccessful. Finally, Dallas Township police were summoned and, fortunately for everyone concerned, responded quickly to the call for help.

That little damage and few personal injuries actually resulted from the fracas should not cloud the real issue: In a time of emergency, Dallas Borough was without police coverage. Had the emergency been a matter of life and death, there would have been no police protection for Dallas Borough citizens.

The plea for a unified police force in the Back Mountain community has to date gone unheeded. Petty political posturing on the part of a few individuals has blocked the efforts of Dr. Hugo Mailey and responsible community leaders to establish a joint police force in the area. This is doubly unfortunate as the vast majority of Back Mountain citizens want—and deserve—the police protection that can be provided only by such a team effort.

Must we endure further crises before acknowledging the near desperate need for a single Back Mountain police force?

family income

□ After we pay our Christmas bills we don't feel very affluent, but the truth is that Americans are doing better financially now than ever before. That's the word we get from a ten-year survey of American family income.

The average family now has an income of \$8017 a year, an increase of more than 57½ percent over our median income 10 years ago. On the other hand, the cost of living in that same period rose only 15½ percent; so we're much better off on the whole.

This survey was made by Meinhard-Commercial Corporation, the country's largest factoring firm. That is, Meinhard provides more than a billion dollars a year in financing to manufacturers, distributors and retail stores. It also provides these customers with advice on marketing and research.

According to Meinhard's annual study of family income, nearly 70 percent of today's families have an income in the big middle range between \$4000 and \$15,000 a year. The largest income group is now the \$7000 to \$10,000 bracket. Meinhard says these families should be the main sales target for American industry in the next few years. Until recently the largest income group earned \$4000 to \$7000, but now the higher bracket has taken over.

Income in northeastern Pennsylvania rose dramatically during the past decade. Effective buying per household, and total for Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties showed steady, economic progress, though both counties still remain below national averages.

In Luzerne County the total effective buying income for 1960 was only \$569,661. By 1968 it had risen to \$841,213.

Effective buying income per household increased from 2.5 percent annually in 1960 to 5.2 percent in 1968. The effective buying income per household the first year of the decade was \$5885, while in 1968 it had climbed to \$7884.

Effective buying income is wages, salaries, interest, dividends, profits, and property income minus federal, state and local taxes.

All reports show a growing share of American families with high incomes, along with a decreasing percentage of families in the lower income group. This present decline in the percent of lower income brackets further amplifies the improving income potential for area residents.

... AND IF THE PRESIDENT SIGNS THE MINING BILL, I HOPE YOU'LL REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE ALL I'VE DONE FOR YOU!



TRB

from Washington
ticket to a sinking

You can guess the president's plans sometimes outside the White House. If a couple of firetrucks wait in the rear he will be taking off soon in his helicopter. If a TV truck is parked to the left of the portico of the flood-lit mansion, he's holding a press conference. As you show your pass you note the noble loveliness of the edifice behind the black, leafless trees. "Gentlemen, the President of the United States," says the attendant, and all the gilt ballroom chairs scrape, and George and Martha Washington look down, and the crystals of the three immense chandeliers twinkle in klieg lights.

This is the eighth press conference in 11 months, the fewest of any president in modern times (FDR had two-a-week in peacetime). You speculate on the president, the nation and the era. Fifty million people are watching on TV; it's amazing. He has no notes; he stands alone. He is poised and confident. Call it glib if you want, but would you like to stand there batting back answers to quick questions? His best defense is that there's no follow-up; he turns to the next questioner quickly. He makes a couple of boo-boos. Marines have built the Vietnamese "250,000" pagodas (about one to every 50 people); it is corrected to 25,000 next day. His figure that 35-37 percent of gross national product now goes to taxes is wrong, economists say; it's around 30 percent—a difference of maybe \$50 billions in a trillion-dollar economy. But so what? It's a remarkable performance. He keeps his cool throughout. Yes, even when asked about Martha

Mitchel, the talkative wife of the attorney general. She has burst upon the national scene as suddenly as Mr. Agnew, and is giving insights into her austere husband's presumed thinking en route. It was she who coined the phrase over TV "liberal Communists" against the anti-war demonstrators. The Washington News broke the story that she had undertaken personal telephone lobbying pressure for Judge Haynsworth on senators' wives. They were hopping mad, according to an amplified account by another reporter the next day. Vote for Haynsworth she threatened, according to one angry senator's wife, or she would "go on national television and defeat him." Her words were "strong and colorful," according to the assistant of Senator Gore (D) of Tennessee; the wife of one of the senators used sharper language.

Mr. Nixon shrugged off the incident wryly in a comment that will win the sympathy of many husbands, but he started trains of thought about the administration as he went on. Mr. Mitchell, in Mary McGrorey's phrase, was the "architect of disaster" in the Haynsworth nomination campaign which showed a striking insensitivity to Senatorial ritual; the three top Republican leaders all voted against Haynsworth. The objective Associated Press (Dec. 10) begins a piece—"President Nixon's troubles with Congress are being compounded by his failure to win support from key members of the Congressional Republican leadership." Proposals mentioned: Haynsworth, civil rights, anti-

poverty legislation and a key provision of the tax reform bill. Where is the locus of Republican uneasiness? In Fortune (no liberal Communist sheet, that) James Reichley explores the administration's plan to capture the South most exhaustively set forth in The Emerging Republican Majority by Kevin P. Phillips, 29, special assistant to Mitchell. The bonds that would hold this new alliance together, Reichley says, would be (1) dislike elsewhere for the populous Northeast and (2) "fear of urban blacks."

The President has publicly taken issue with the idea, Reichley notes, but with Phillips retaining "his position at the attorney general's side . . . it seems permissible to question whether the administration leaders truthfully reject his theory (which Republican Sen. William Saxbe of Ohio calls 'a ticket on the Titanic'), or merely are chagrined that he has spelled it out with such candid cynicism." Hasn't Mr. Phillips really done for Mr. Nixon "the same dubious service that Machiavelli performed for Cesare Borgia—describing in naked words what his hero had all along been doing by instinct." Indeed, a lot of moderate Republicans worry about this ticket on the Titanic.

The press conference zooms on. As many as 20 reporters jump up at once, trying to catch the President's eye. Now he is talking about taxes; threatening to veto the Senate's Christmas tree tax bill. The mind goes back; how did this business of inflation start, anyway?

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thissa 'n thatta: black disobedience infringes on equal guarantees to whites

by THE GAFFER

The liberal brethren and sisters had better run to their typewriters to write a letter to the editor calling for the Gaffer's scalp, because today's preaching is going to offer the opinion that white people have just as much rights as colored people; further, that certain colored people are infringing on the rights of white people.

What is irking the old gentleman this week is the newspaper report that in Chicago, a certain Rev. C.T. Vivian chose the Christmas season to issue the following manifesto: "Effective immediately, at 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew is established for all whites in the black community. No whites will be permitted to enter the black community for any reason during those hours and all whites inside the black community must leave by the 6 p.m. deadline."

His unilateral ukase went on that "a black tribunal will be convened to try Negro judges, policemen, politicians and any other individuals who have been and who are presently cooperating with the forces of power in this city (Chicago) to the detriment of the black people."

The Reverend who pulled in his horns somewhat on the following day, allowed that there would also be a black investigation of the "murders" of two Black Panthers who tried to shoot it out with the police and that policemen operating in black neighborhoods will be watched by community residents.

I will digress at this point to mention that I have read statements that the two Panthers were shot in cold blood by the

treated as public enemies. Colored people who do not respect and obey the laws must expect the same treatment. People like this Rev. Vivian should be aware of this, as apparently he was not.

The paradoxical aspect of his hysterical manifesto is that he was making a plea for self-imposed segregation of Negroes, much the same as the 50 colored girls at an eastern college, who demanded a separate dormitory for themselves and others of their race.

Do the Negroes want to be segregated or don't they? I suppose that some of them do and some of them don't, being human individuals with

differing tastes; and I firmly believe that each viewpoint should have an opportunity of doing it the way he or she wants to do it.

Whites have the right to live with other whites of their own particular brand and the same right should apply to Negroes. But neither white nor Negro has any right to break laws, nor to defy the police. The police, remember, come in both colors too.

The Black Panthers are not doing anything to help solve the racial problem in this country, nor is the Rev. Vivian.

continued on PAGE 10

poetry corner

by F. BUDD SCHOOLEY, M.D. Dallas

Man is more than a speck in the land,
His destiny is influenced by a higher hand.
His life is bound by love,
And redemption from above.
His being more than microscopic dust,
In a universal God that he can trust.
A worthwhile purpose in humble labor,
A meaningful objective in his behavior.
In the past, today and hence,
Conscious pattern of his existence.
Man's spiritual goal was ordained
To accomplish more than was attained.
The finality of death is not all,
The inner spirit hears the call;
To guide him on the final journey home,
God is there and he is not alone.

From Pillar To Post

By HIX



Hap Hazard and Hix exchange insults freely, making scathing remarks and counter remarks on paper. Hap always gets a reply through the mail, because he invariably encloses a stamped self-addressed envelope, a dodge which a good many business firms would do well to adopt in the interests of speedy returns and enclosed checks. When I get a bill with an addressed envelope, I remit within a week. When I get a bill with a self-addressed envelope, with a stamp already in place, the mail practically glows red hot and sends up smoke signals. This accounts for the speed with which Hap is answered, every time he addresses a letter to Chipmunk Crossing. Native thrift will not permit Hix to waste a stamp, and as Hap licks them in place with a fervor which causes them to stay put, they are of no value on any other envelope. They resist steaming off. I've tried. I quote . . . and it is Hap Hazard who is not talking: "You must have removed the black patch over the eye to enable you to write me such a snide note. I may be on the string bean side, but I do have the capacity to take aboard an awful lot of food. Last night I had dinner at the Alexanders, and here is what Jeannie turned out:

"Flounder, thin sliced and rolled, baked in milk and butter sauce; tiny onions with lima beans, done in cream sauce and delectable; a cole slaw fit for the Waldorf, all downed with a cauldron of milk. After that came a brown Betty mit cream yet, and contrary to your accusations, I had to leave half of the brown Betty on the saucer and could not take it home with me, seein' that I love brown Betty and have it so seldom." (How about a doggie bag, Hap?)

"I see by your one-time rag that the community at large is going to give you a whoop-de-ding. On such occasions they normally present the victim with a hand-painted carpet bag, and instructions to get going. I am reminded of the big party the Sanitation Department in New York City gave a very old Italian who was retiring after forty years on the force, pushing a cart with a barrel on it and wielding a big broom and shovel. His conferees decided to give him a

big party, to which they invited Mayor Laguardia, hoping he would come. "The Mayor did come, and after the banquet he gave a glowing account of the devotion of this old Italian to his job, and his long years in service. At the end he called the old man up to the speakers' table, shook him by the hand, and presented him with a nickel-plated shovel. The little old Italian was overcome, and with tears streaming down his face he blurted out, 'Tanks, Mr. Mayor, I'll remember youse after every shovelful.' "With all good wishes to you and the big black eye-patch, I shall always look forward to receiving your caustic comments about my failings. I hope you will hang around these diggings for a long time and complete the work you have under cover, and when the alarm rings off at seven o'clock, you can thumb your nose at it and turn over for a final snooze. One good turn deserves another. But a friend of mine once told me that when his wife did one good turn she had all the covers.

"When I heard you were in the hospital I thought maybe you had been expecting, though I hadn't noticed it especially the last time I saw you in that outside tartan house gown. Afterwards I read that there was a baby in the house, but not yours except by remote control. "When you stop playing the part of a pirate, I'll drop around, this time sans chicken." (Forget the chicken, Hap. It was the wretchedest little chicken I ever saw in my life, taken away from its mother far too soon. About the size of a brook trout, but very tasty. It ended up in chicken noodle soup, noodles by courtesy of Mrs. Jimmie Kozemchak. The ravens are at it again. All small offerings thankfully received.

Happy New Year and everything.

only yesterday



FORTY YEARS AGO

A. C. Devens, Kunkle flour and feed dealer, purchased the Dallas Lumber Company buildings and announced plans to establish a modern flour and feed business in them. At the same time another feed company, Brown and Fassett of Tunkhannock, announced that it had begun operations on a new plant to be located opposite the Glen View Coal Company on Demunds Road at Fernbrook.

The astronomical program for 1930 included two eclipses of the sun and two of the moon; the return of two periodic comets and perhaps several new ones; a gradual decline of sunspots and solar activity. As a result of the sunspots' decline better radio reception was promised.

Somewhat prematurely, a Dallas Post editorial noted that because Christmas business for 1929 had been as good as a year before the economic outlook for 1930 looked brighter than it had just a few months before. The reason people did not cut down on their Christmas shopping, The Post related, was because President Hoover's "business conferences in Washington had restored public confidence in the soundness of the nation's industries." With a decade-long depression still to come, the optimism reflected in this prediction would soon seem hollow indeed.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

Luzerne County officials jumped the gun and listed as delinquent in payment of taxes hundreds of people who had in fact paid them and were embarrassed by publication of their names.

Credited with the delivery of over 3000 babies, Dr. H. A. Brown of Lehman was honored.

by the American Legion for having typified during his 34 years of service as general practitioner the highest ideals of the medical profession.

The Governor Arthur James Mobilization Crusade against the downward spiral of unemployment was to be headed in this area by Mrs. G. A. A. Kuehn.

Luzerne County relief payments were up sharply over 1929.

To meet the challenge of providing warm garments for refugees of World War II, the Luzerne Junior Woman's Club started a Red Cross sewing group. Mrs. Charles Jones was in charge.

Died: Mrs. Frank Mazur, Trucksville, and her sister Mrs. John Walsh of Edwardsville died of peritonitis within two hours of each other; Sarah Thomas, 83, Noxen; John Hayes, 72, Idetown.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Dallas Township High School had a large representation at the Farm Show, both band members and vocational agriculture students. Andrew Mattie and Willard Race won gold medals for projects in state-wide competition; Mattie for five acres of tomatoes and five of cabbage, Race for two acres of cucumbers.

Fred Anderson pressed for reinstatement of James A. Martin as supervising principal at a lively meeting of Kingston Township school board, as a first step toward complete accreditation of the high school. Dallas Borough PTA was the only PTA in Luzerne County to win the certificate for achievement of goals during the previous year.

Died: Amy Young, Shavertown.

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