

EDITORIAL

Patrolman Sabol

Most policemen everywhere, including the Back Mountain, receive inadequate salaries. Also they can seldom get sufficient insurance to protect themselves and their families in case they are injured or killed in the line of duty—but these and many other inadequacies do not deter the dedicated "cop" from his duties.

Courage is one of the necessary traits needed by a good police officer—among a number of other requirements. It cannot be a sometime courage, but must always be to the fore when needed.

Too often a courageous policeman does not receive public recognition for an exhibition of courage and devotion to his job.

This week, for all citizens of the Back Mountain area, we would like to commend all good and devoted law enforcement officers—with a special commendation for Patrolman Paul Sabol of Kingston Township.

Patrolman Sabol was called to the scene of an attempted burglary early one morning last week. Upon arriving at a local service station, he found the alleged burglar crouching inside the building. When the suspect ran out the front door and fled up a steep bank, the Kingston Township officer pursued him. Although Officer Sabol had his own service gun and fired over the suspect's head, he did not know at the time whether the burglar was "armed and dangerous." This did not keep Patrolman Sabol from the performance of his sworn duty to protect the lives and property of his township's citizens.

Needless to say, the suspect was arrested subsequently and taken to Luzerne County jail to await trial.

We believe this is a fine example of courage—as displayed by many officers—and Patrolman Sabol in particular.

A Case of Greed

Last week Gov. Shapp announced he would veto a bill passed by the state senate which would have substantially increased legislators' pensions. By "substantially increased" we mean more than double the present pension.

Legislators are currently allowed \$540 in pension per year served. This means that a man with 10 years in the state house or senate would receive \$5,400 annual pension. The \$540 dollar figure represents 7.5 percent of a lawmakers annual salary of \$7,200. Under the new bill pensions would be computed by taking 7.5 percent of \$15,600 which is the sum of a legislator's salary and expense allowance (currently \$8,400 yearly.) This would have raised legislators' pensions from \$540 per year served to \$1,170. Furthermore the bill would have raised the ceiling on pensions from the current \$12,000 per year to \$15,600 per year.

It is interesting to note that there was hardly a whimper of opposition to the pension bill before the bill had passed the senate (36-12) and been sent on to the house. The reason for this is that the senate chose to insert the pension plan into a bill which would have provided expenses for judges serving outside their districts. This was done just the day before the senate voted on the measure, and senators from both parties chose to remain silent about insertion. It wasn't until the house caucused that the pension proposal finally caught the governor's (and the public's) eye.

In view of the fact that only months ago Pennsylvania was on the verge of financial collapse this action by the Senate can only be termed appalling. Not only have the taxpayers of this state been insulted by the senate's action, but the insult is compounded by the fact that state lawmakers were given a \$3,600 a year expense allowance increase in June as part of a deal for passing the state income tax. (Needless to say no objections were voiced by the Governor at that time.) It is interesting to note that some of those senators who were most vociferous in calling for cutbacks in state spending had no difficulty in voting for increased pensions.

Gov. Shapp has indicated that he will consider a more "reasonable" pension increase, but has not defined his term "reasonable." May we remind the governor and the legislators that with a new state income tax, wage-price controls, and a shaky national economy two pay increases a year is little more than callous greed, especially to the currently irate and overburdened taxpayers.

Changes

By Eric Mayer

Swivelling in his chair, squirming like a great grey jelly, Eugene James cast another doleful glance at the office clock, 3:30. Beneath the pounding of his head, he heard himself sigh. He felt like a fish on a hook; forever leaping forward toward five o'clock, toward the short drive home to his evening paper, only to be pulled up short by time's invisible cord and reeled back into the endless afternoon.

Some days are longer than others. Monday for instance, stretched to a thin tedium between Sunday and Tuesday. Everyone feels this in the immutable depths of their mind, but since all clocks, planetary motions, radioactive decay rates, even our own pulses, are held prisoner by the cosmic warpage, it will never be proved scientifically.

And so much for science, grumped Mr. James, who was usually an avid fan of science so far as it applied to ballistic missiles and electronic scoreboards.

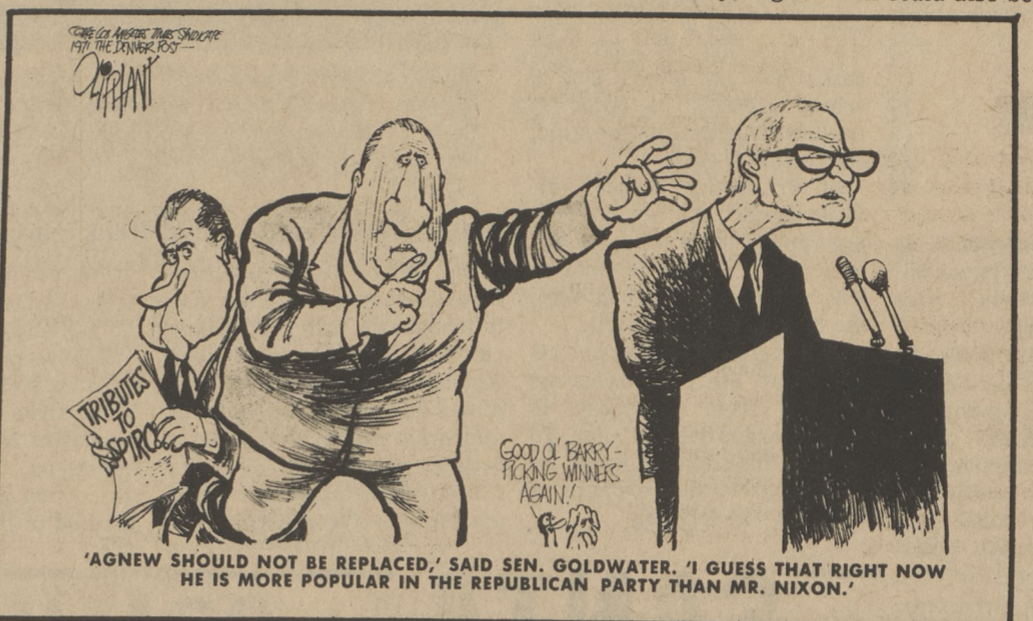
Eugene James—by day a mild mannered form filler; a bolt (or maybe only a slightly worm washer) in a large corporate machine; he'd kept his dreams discreetly to himself and had grown fat on them. For years he'd subsisted on the bitter fermentation of youthful expectations. A somewhat sour man, he had avoided failure by writing letters.

So it was that he waited impatiently to see the Monday newspaper. A few days before, having boiled over an editorial criticizing the president's escalation of the air war in Vietnam, he'd composed a steaming rebuttal that he figured would bring his friends to their telephones, brimming with praise. Mr. James was no ordinary man.

"Why as a matter of fact," he often bragged to admirers, "I average two or three letters a week. I don't always sign my name you see."

In fact, not all of the "digusted", "fed up to here", "anonymous" missives that graced area letters columns were the labors of the prolific Mr. James—but they might just as well have been, so similar were they in form and content.

A pedant, taking the trouble to drudge through the author's bulging scrapbook would be able to distill from the clippings a distinct set of rules, a sort of formula, a code by which the much set upon knights of conservatism might go forth to battle against the monstrous liberal press.



TRB

from Washington

As the minutes ticked by with a hideous, immeasurable five-megaton monster buried a mile deep on the earthquake line in the foggy Aleutians that might or might not blow up the world, what did frightened Americans do? Why did they did what every Greek would have understood 2500 years ago in the time of Herodotus, they hurried to consult the oracle, the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court, make no doubt of it, has an awesome, mystical, religious, value very handy in commanding respect in a humdrum government in a materialistic age. No other modern nation has anything quite like it; they have a King or Queen in some countries or a ceremonial president who stands above and behind the premier, but we consult the Court. Nothing new in that! Should Themistocles abandon Athens to Xerxes or should he fight the naval battle of Salamis?—nobody knew, so he sent messengers hot foot off to Delphi which handed down its judgment which nobody could understand, partly because it was written in hexameter verse and partly because it was as skillfully vague as a pollster's prediction before a close presidential election.

So what do we do in Washington when the executive can't, and the legislature won't, intervene? Like Lacedaemonians we go to our Greek temple, and ask the seven wise men (two seats are empty). They don their holy black robes and the votaries make their pleas. You can browbeat an oracle or at least try to: The Executive in this case almost jumped up and down contending that they must have a "go" signal by 12:30, or abandon the awesome blast.

The seers go into the holy of holies to

consult the Mystery—America's Bible, Talmud and Koran—the Constitution revealed two centuries ago, the original of which is piously preserved in an inert gas, hermetically sealed, in its own temple.

Search the ancient instrument as they could the Seven found nothing in it about nuclear blasts and Amchitka was not even mentioned. They came out, looking more profound and mysterious than ever as augurs have since sacerdotal rites began, like examining the entrails of chickens. They reported 4 to 3, that they couldn't get an exact fix from the Founding Fathers but that, anyway, a majority felt they shouldn't hold up the show. It was put in nice legal lingo, not hexameters.

Talk about this institution as a simple court—it is vastly more than that. It is one of the most potent mystical adjuncts of our government, by which the common man is kept in line, very handy in a democracy, by which he is sometimes willing to suspend his judgment when common sense points another way and by which, on rare occasions, he is persuaded to enter strange new paths of progress when they are opened by men like Earl Warren and his group.

So that is why the replacement of members is so important. Mr. Nixon covered the country in 1968 attacking the Court while it was a liberal body but now that he has, in practical terms, switched it to a conservative body he urges respect and observes sorrowfully, "I have noted with distress a growing tendency in the country to criticize the Court as an institution." Well, dear dear! This from the man who said the Court had abandoned the "peace forces as against the

criminal forces."

To this Court Mr. Nixon has nominated a respectable Virginia conservative, Lewis Powell, who will surely be confirmed, and join conservatives Burger and Blackmun, and a younger Goldwater conservative, William Rehnquist, whose views are such that they can only be termed astonishing. Only seven years ago he carried out what amounts to a one-man crusade in Phoenix, Arizona, against a public accommodations law requiring drug stores to serve Negroes, and he did it on the basis of the holy rights of private property. When the city council voted against his volunteer effort unanimously, Rehnquist, who is an activist zealot, volunteered a letter to the local newspaper charging that the "ordinance summarily does away with the historic right of the owner of a drug store, lunch counter or theater to choose his customers." He pleaded that the "freedom of the property owner" should not "be sacrificed to give these minorities a chance to have access to integrated eating places. . . ." The rights of property, under the Rehnquist philosophy, would come before the rights of Jews, Irish, Blacks, Italians or what have you. It is breath-taking. He told the Senate Judiciary Committee that he has changed these views. Why?—because he has found that segregation doesn't work, and "because I have come to realize since, more than I did at the time" that minorities really care about equality. Right down to 1964, Rehnquist hadn't realized that they cared.

"The white people of this country don't realize that a man who kicks Negroes in the teeth is not suitable for the Supreme Court," said NAACP spokesman Clarence Mitchell,

provided for those of liberal persuasion, but Mr. James' scrapbook would be of no value in such an endeavor.

It's hard to say how Mr. James viewed his hobby, or compulsion. Did he simply enjoy seeing his words, pale offspring of his brain chemistry, decked out in glorious printers ink on the editorial page of a local paper? Was his greatest goal in life to have a letter printed in Time magazine? Or was he on a crusade, venturing deep into the homeland of the infidel, doing his duty, defending the honor of his country and convictions? At times he gave the latter impression.

But it must be remembered that Mr. James, in his college days, had planted his metaphysical commas with the best of them and still indulged in a bit of doggerel. In fact he intended to write a novel some weekend, or whenever, if ever, he had the time. So maybe his motivation was one of pride. Most likely he didn't know himself.

So he sat at his desk, an unimpressive toad of a man, waiting for five o'clock. Already, in his mind, he was composing another letter dealing with the recent appointments to the supreme court. No doubt, if it was eventually printed it would find its space in his scrapbook. There, between the glassine sheets, it would yellow slowly, would at least outlast the transitory memos he scribbled at the office, would have more substance and reality than the chaotic, invisible musings that rattled around the dark hallways of his brain.

The letters were a game—a survival game. They meant little or nothing to anyone but himself. Such were Mr. James' thoughts, at odd moments of the dragging day, when he felt like writing and found his mind dry.

The Nine Mystic Oracles

and Joe Rauh of ADA, after reviewing Rehnquist's overall record called him "the most reactionary appointee to the Supreme Court in the 20th Century."

Rehnquist doesn't just nourish his prejudices in private; he writes letters to editors about them; he is an activist. When *The Washington Post* attacked Carswell's nomination he volunteered a letter with the strange juxtaposition that broadening of civil rights would bring "further expansion of the constitutional rights of criminal defendants, of pornographers and of demonstrators."

The Supreme Court will have staggering questions to answer in the next generation. We talk about busing, for example, but that is just the outward symbol; the problem is a nation divided between black slums and leafy suburbs, with busing a desperate last minute expedient to bring them together. If busing fails the problem of "one nation, divided" remains. And already there is a new legal attack on it; the new code word will be "zoning" not busing.

Factories are emigrating from the inner slums to the suburbs but there they find that restrictive zoning against garden apartments and row houses segregates families with low and moderate incomes. Ford quits Newark and buys 200 acres for a factory at Mahwah, New Jersey, but the 4200 Ford workers learn that they can't live there unless they purchase homes with an acre or so of land; the ordinances are tight and fierce. It is economic segregation; not by race but by class. Soon or later (you can count on it) this zoning issue will come to the Supreme Court. And what kind of oracles are we putting in the Holy Temple?

Economy

by Hugh P. King

Q. With the advent of wage-price controls in a peacetime economy, what lies ahead for America in the foreseeable future?

A. Based on the experience of other nations over the years, it appears that a rockier road lies ahead for most Americans. Abandonment of the free market philosophy and substitution of authoritarian controls is probably a more serious event than most Americans yet realize. If history provides any criteria, the Nation's outlook is grim.

Q. Why do you think the movement away from a free market economy is so serious at this particular time?

A. Well, this move occurred under the Administration of a "conservative" President supposedly representing the somewhat "right of center" view of the average American. The more "liberal" philosophers of the Democratic Party and the radical Leftists might have made a similar move much earlier. Either party, of course, would be unlikely to undertake such sweeping reform without some fairly concrete evidence that they have the support of the majority of the Nation's voters. Before the move to wage-price controls, opinion polls showed that over 70 percent of Americans favored the institution of such controls. Thus, with this kind of support behind them, both major parties may be expected to support the "controlled economy" philosophy more or less indefinitely.

Q. If the wage-price controls begin to cause serious difficulty for the average American, won't his opinion change and this, in turn, cause a swing back to free markets?

A. This could happen, of course. But analysis of events in other countries under similar circumstances seems to indicate that, once wage-price controls are substituted for free markets, then a long period of increasing control is the most likely course. This occurs as the economy's managers find that they need more and more powers to make their wage-price controls work. You see, people are a perverse and cantankerous lot who,

foreseeably, will do almost anything to get around the government's controls. While it may be anticipated that the average American will wholeheartedly support price and wage controls on the things he wants to buy, it will be difficult, indeed, to find a man who is enthusiastic about controls on things he wants to sell or upon his own wages. For this reason, unless the government is able to impose a much more comprehensive system of controls upon Americans than they have been used to, the wage-price management system will soon break down.

Q. If the wage-price control system breaks down, why wouldn't the government simply abandon the idea and go back to free markets?

A. That could actually happen. But remember, the party in power has strongly supported the idea that the way to do this is to enforce wage-price controls. The major opposition party has strongly supported the same view for many years. If, for one reason or another, the party in power finds that inflation is continuing, it will do its level best to preserve its reputation by increasing the degree of control over the marketplace. At the same time, if wage-price controls don't work, the opposition party (which also supports strongly the idea of a managed economy) will assuredly clamor for more comprehensive and stricter control. Under the circumstances just outlined, it will be hard to find any voices advocating a return to free markets. Government has assumed the responsibility for assuring everyone "just prices" and "just wages" (an utterly impossible accomplishment) and will be expected to deliver.

Q. You seem to imply that wage-price controls won't work. Is this true?

A. That depends on what you mean. They certainly will have very little effect on inflation. The causes of inflation lie elsewhere. Trying to control inflation by the imposition of wage-price controls is like trying to reduce a patient's fever by putting the thermometer in

a glass of ice-water. We'd be aiming at a symptom instead of the cause. Nevertheless, if the government is willing to "go all out" in its efforts to impose wage-price controls and "make them stick", it will achieve some success in holding some prices and some wages to the line. Some of the tools needed, however, are rather unpleasant. These will include materials and manpower allocation, very intensive and detailed reporting, massive policing, severe penalties for infraction of rules, substantial expansion of the judiciary (to handle the infraction cases), and a big increase in spending for penal institutions (to incarcerate the miscreants who won't obey the rules).

Q. What has the expanding money and credit supply have to do with enforcing price controls?

A. Quite a bit, if a nation's supply of money and credit is expanded rapidly (as is presently the case) then the price-level (the average of all prices) will tend to rise. This occurs because, as time passes, people will have more and more dollars in their pockets with which to bid up prices of things they want. It's probably not feasible to control the prices of every good and service within a nation, therefore, the prices of the things not controlled will tend to rise rapidly. This, in turn, will make the price-level rise. Clearly,

with the price-level rising, the "controlled" wages and prices are going to be subjected to some strong upward pressures. If manufacturers are not permitted to raise the prices of things they sell but, at the same time, some of their costs are allowed to rise, then it seems obvious that their profits will be squeezed to the point where manufacture of "controlled" items is no longer profitable or, at least, where greater profit, may be earned elsewhere. At such point, unless the government insists on continued production, supplies of "controlled price" goods will tend to dry up. Rationing will then be needed to assure an "equitable" distribution of scarce goods. The individual who finds his wages "controlled" during a period when the price-level is rising, will soon seek employment elsewhere unless he is forced to remain on the job. Manpower allocation and control, therefore, is a necessity under such circumstances. And, of course, people being just people, there will be a widespread tendency to "cheat" on wage-price controls by buyers offering more than official prices or by sellers asking more than the government allows. In other countries, this practice is known as trading in the "Black Market". Generally, it flourishes and must be fought vigorously by imposition of severe penalties.

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