

# EDITORIALS

## Unfair Criticism---With a twist!

An unusually harsh criticism of Mount Joy's Borough Council was made recently and the community was slapped with unearned, unfavorable publicity.

A few days ago a writer of a "Letter to the Editor" criticised severely the Borough Council because it did not blindly approve an expenditure made by the Friendship Fire company for the installing of some lights in the fire company building.

It is obvious that the writer knows part of the story, but it also is obvious that he does not know all the story.

But, what is important to the total picture is that the name signed to the letter appeared to be fictitious.

A thorough search of telephone books, directories, and membership rolls of the fire company fail to disclose that there is any such person as the name signed to the letter.

The story starts back several months ago.

A functioning section of the borough made a purchase and had some services performed without talking with proper authorities and without permission. However, the bill was sent to borough council for payment.

Council, always watchful, in the course of its regular business, tabled the bill and asked for more information. The bill was not large.

After due investigation, at a later meeting the bill was paid and council took a firm stand stating that as the body responsible to tax payers and as the regulating head of the community it is, or its responsible representatives are to be consulted prior to expenditures. The councilmen feel that this is just plain, fundamentally good business and proper procedure.

A few weeks later the bill for the installing of the lights at the fire house was received. It, too, had not been previously ok'd by anyone responsible to the council.

Thus, following the pattern detailed in the previous case, the bill was tabled—not disallowed—and a letter sent to the fire company president, asking for more details.

This bill, too, is not large (\$70) and neither the borough nor the fire company will suffer irreparable financial disaster, whichever finally settles the account.

The point of the discussion is that if council is to maintain control of spending, if it is to be vigilant, if it is to be the responsible agent of the taxpayers, it must keep a close grasp upon the purse strings of the government.

Being of the temperament that it is, council feels its responsibility to retain supervision of all payments.

A council which would act otherwise would be in for instant criticism and possibly charges of negligence.

Borough did not make a flat refusal to pay the fire company bill. Council tabled the action until it could gather additional facts—as it should.

It should be pointed out that council is on record as looking with favor upon "do-it-yourself" projects of such nature. For instance, council is always glad to talk—in advance—about "we buy the materials, you do the work" type improvements.

The real danger, at this point, is that the irresponsible publicity now will tend to split apart what has been in recent months a growing together of the council and the fire companies.

But, every situation, fortunately, has its humorous side and, in the end, a good laugh may tend to heal over the situation.

The letter was signed with the name "Richard P. Kelly. As pointed out above, there does not seem to be any person in the community by that name. However, it has been suggested strongly that "the first president of the Mount Joy fire company" was Richard P. Kelly. That, apparently, would have been more than 100 years ago.

One sharp-witted member of the council Monday night at a special session mused, "Maybe we should run an ad in the newspaper saying, "We are not responsible for any statements made by anyone other than ourselves" and then sign it, "Mrs. Richard P. Kelly."

A profile of a typical resident of the new 16th District would look like this: The resident would be 29 years old, white, live within a few miles of a city or town in his or her own house, have a high school diploma, work for some kind of manufacturing concern, and have a family income of about \$10,000. If male, he heads a family and has 1 or 2 children.

If your car catches fire and you don't have a fire extinguisher, the National Automobile Club advises smothering the blaze with dirt from the roadside.

## The Mount Joy BULLETIN

11 EAST MAIN STREET  
MOUNT JOY, PA., 17552  
Published Weekly on  
Wednesdays  
Except Fourth of July Week  
and Christmas Week  
(50 Issues Per Year)  
Richard A. Rainbolt

Editor  
and  
Publisher  
Advertising rates upon request.  
Entered at the post office at  
Mount Joy, Penna., as second  
class mail under the Act of  
March 3, 1879.

"We made a statement here that was heard across the country," one Miami Beach demonstrator said last week following the activist sessions.

Yes, the young radicals who want so desperately to do what they want to do, even at any price of the same right of others, did make a statement in Miami.

The young speaker, apparently, believes that he and his cult called attention to the bombing in Vietnam. What mostly was accomplished by the young people who caused the disruptions was to focus the spotlight more directly upon the unlawful, unnecessary and unacceptable behavior of a section of our population.

What most Americans saw on the streets of Miami Beach was not a Vietnam protest. What they saw was a hoard of young animals who were breaking the law and disturbing the peace.

Street action reached a peak and has been a defeated cause since the Democrat convention in Chicago in 1968.

Whether the police at Miami Beach did or did not over react is not a question for discussion. Cause for any police action was generated by unlawfulness.

The street people did not make a statement about the bombing. The bombing and the general public's attitude about the bombing is well known. Anyone who does not know about the bombing just doesn't watch the television news.

All the activists did in Miami was to make the American public sick—sick at heart that the tire-slashing, paint-throwing, foul-mouth "crazies" are the product of a society which has focused so much of its energies in the area of making things possible for its young.

The question most Americans were asking is "Where did we fail?"

### VICE PRESIDENT AGNEW

The long guessing game is over. It will be Spiro T. Agnew on the No. 2 spot of the Republican presidential ticket.

In our opinion President Nixon made a wise decision in retaining Agnew as his running mate. It makes good sense to keep a "winning ticket" — especially in view of the fact that current polls show Mr. Nixon leading McGovern by almost 20 percentage points.

As a widely respected conservative, Agnew probably will help the President gain at least two-thirds of George Wallace votes if the Alabama Governor does not run in November. (He subsequently withdrew).

This is no small consideration since Wallace rolled up a tremendous vote in the presidential preference primaries, winning decisive victories in the populous States of Michigan and Florida.

In his years of traveling the country and speaking out forcefully on all the issues, Agnew has grown much in stature. He has come from relative obscurity to national prominence.

By sheer personal courage he has demolished the stereotype that his critics tried to create for him—that of a bumbling Mr. Malaprop.

He has proven under fire that he is a shrewd and competent politician, a highly polished speaker—one of the most effective in the entire Republican Party.

The noes who wanted to dump Agnew as the vice-presidential candidate were those who never supported him in the first place.

From an objective point of view, Agnew has done a tremendous job for the Republican Party. With seemingly inexhaustible energy, he has brought in millions of dollars to the party by speaking at fund-raising dinners.

At a time when the Democrats, led by Sen. George S. McGovern, are embarked on a socialistic program that would undermine our free-enterprise system, it is gratifying to know that a man of Spiro Agnew's courage will be punching holes in the radical proposals of McGovern and his mentor, John Kennedy Galbraith.

This is a time for straight, honest talk. The Nation is fortunate to have a man like Spiro Agnew who speaks his mind so vigorously and forthrightly—even to the point of offending the Liberal Establishment.

—St. Louis Globe-Democrat

### TIMING

"The old world will give way to the new. The old man will give way to the new man." Many people make such statements when referring to our rapidly changing world. One would hope that we could find a bridge which would enable us to bring some of the strength and quality of the old into the new. As we learn to develop a positive expectation for future good, we shall cross each new bridge with excitement and joyous anticipation.

### AFFIRMATION

To find contentment in the heart and a sense of fulfillment in the mind, we must learn to affirm life and the goodness of living. Not by hating others, but by loving them, not by harming, but by helping, not by despairing, but by hoping do we find the strength and courage to give to life and receive from life. It is not the final goal that is so important but, rather, the journey. There will always be something to tempt you to deny the worthwhileness of life, but affirmation is much more powerful than denial.

The basic need for love and attention is present throughout our life. Sometimes we are ashamed of this need and will not give it conscious recognition, but this does not cause it to go away. To feel the longing for love and attention and refuse to admit it may cause us to blame others. Employer, children, husband, or wife can become the object of our grievance. It is much easier to acknowledge our need and prepare to receive it when it comes our way.

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## Washington Report

The Sensus Bureau recently released some statistical profiles for the new Congressional districts. These are the districts that were created by the reapportionment this year and will be represented in the 93rd Congress which convenes in January, 1973. The statistics are based on the results of the 190 Census.

As you know, the new 16th Congressional District includes Lancaster county and parts of Lebanon and Chester Counties. But the figures shown in the Census Bureau report give a more comprehensive look at the makeup of the new 16th, and I thought you would find these statistics interesting.

There are 467,811 people living in the District which is 4 percent of the total population of Pennsylvania. Almost 50 percent of the population lives in what are classified as urban areas, with about eight percent on farms and the other 42 percent in rural areas such as small communities or plots of land too small to be called farms.

The per capita income of the 16th District averages \$3,056. The median family income is \$9,905. This means that one-half of the families in the District have incomes above this figure and one-half have incomes below. The comparable figures for all of Pennsylvania are \$3,058 in per capita income and \$9,554 in median family income.

Manufacturing dominates the economy of the District. Over 40 percent of the people who are employed work in some phase of manufacturing. Just under 17 percent are involved in wholesale and retail trade. Slightly less than 15 percent are engaged in professional and related services. Construction accounts for about six percent of the work force and agriculture, forestry and fishing combined account for five percent.

There are 119,180 families in the 16th, with a family defined as consisting of two or more related persons. Of that total, nearly 92 percent are headed by a man. The average size of the families in the District is 3.56 persons and about 58 percent of them have children under 18 years of age.

The Census Buert report shows that our population is pretty much tied to the area. While just over 40 percent of all persons 5 years old and over moved between 1956 and 1970, most of them moved only a short distance. Of those who moved, 63 percent simply changed their residence within the county.

There are 146,595 year-round housin gunits in the District. Over 97 percent of these units are occupied and of those occupied nearly 70 percent are lived in by the owners. The median value of owner occupied housing is \$15,588 which ranks the 16th District 7th among the State's Congressional districts in housing median value. 75 percent of the housing units are individual homes and more than 20 percent of all structures have been built since 1960.

### If You Would Write . . .

Would you like to write to your state or federal representatives in Harrisburg or Washington? Here are their addresses:

#### FEDERAL

Sen. Hugh D. Scott, Room 260, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C., 20515.

Sen. Richard S. Schweiker, Room 4317, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C., 20515.

Rep. Edwin D. Eshleman, 416 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, D. C., 20515.

#### STATE

Senator Richard A. Snyder, Box 21, State Senate, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.

Rep. Jack B. Horner, 23-A S. Market St., Elizabethtown 17022.