Editorial

Some Lessons From Watergate

"O, what a tangled web we weave,

When first we practice to deceive."

The poet's lines are only too apropos for the present tangled mesh in Washington over the Watergate case.

The whole caper was unfortunate, even from the beginning, and is symptomatic of what can happen when politics is allowed to supersede statesmanship. Why was it deemed necessary to resort to lawbreaking to assure winning of an election that was, even to the most remote political observer, already in the bag?

And then when the breakin was uncovered what mental process was invoked that called for coverup, even to the point of possible further criminality?

Hindsight would indicate that if those responsible had immediately made a clean breast of it all the repercussions might have been milder, that the American people might have been dismayed but would have been left room to rationalize that, after all, that's politics. A dirty game, but a game nonetheless.

But instead the same men who brought us the "law and order" cliche got caught with their slogans down and then began to sew a frantic pattern of deception and confusion, so that the truth of the matter may never be known clearly.

The whole situation adds further embarrassment to an administration that already been waging a war of sorts on the news media and ironically has served to point out the necessity of a free press performing watchdog services on government. Indeed many who may have been growing suspect of such media have been reminded of just what the First Amendment is all about.

There are other simple lessons from Watergate.

Practice what you preach.

This administration has promoted the idea of law and order, while in fact it now seems it has utilized the very machinery of lawfulness, the Justice Department and the FBI, for self-serving political purposes.

We have heard of the necessity of cutting down on programs to aid the poor, implying that the poor cheat, and have been lectured with the platitude of honest labor as an antidote. Meanwhile the Watergate coverup was simultaneously progressing with the promulgation of this administration program.

Don't misread landslide political victories.

Apparently the administration saw last November's win as assurance it could ride roughshod over any seeming opposition — as witness the President, even at a late date in the Watergate fiasco, invoking executive privilege to keep certain figures from having to testify before a congressional committee.

Finally, the lesson for all heads of all administrations may be to cut back on secrecy as a modus operandi. True, at times, executive session is a necessity, but, like arsenic, it should be used sparingly and with a great deal of care.

Lesson on Abortion

While abortion-on-demand is still fought in the United States it has long been a policy in some Communist nations — so long that it is beginning to hurt. Rumania has already admitted it is in trouble in the marketplace because of a lack of manpower.

Now Bulgaria which has allowed any woman an abortion "practically on demand" has announced that from now on "there will be no more abortions for women without children, or for women with only one child."

It is not very strange that God-less governments would be among the first to institute abortion on demand. Nor is it incredible that using abortion as a birth-control measure could lead to such dire circumstances.

Opinion

'Cross Walk' Edifying

Editor:

Having accepted the invitation read in the Courier-Journal, (4/18/73) to attend the "Cross Walk" Way of Cross held along a two-mile route from Wayland to the crest of Selbig Hill on Good Friday afternoon, I wish to thank all those who helped to make it possible.

A more edifying experience I have never known. Those of my family, who attended with me, voted it a great experience and one they shall never forget.

I am deeply grateful.

Rose Mary Haak
32 Big Tree Street
Livonia, New York 14487

Magazines For Missionaries

Editor:

Readers may like to mail their used Catholic pamphlets and magazines direct to foreign missions.

If those who wish to do so will please send me self-addressed envelopes, I will give them the addresses of missionary priests and nuns who need Catholic literature.

Mary Conway,
14 Castle Street,
Cork, Ireland.

Chest Prexy Thanks Paper

Editor:

We are deeply indebted to you and your staff for your very fine articles in support of the Catholic Charities and Community Chest featured in the April 18 edition of the Courier-Journal.

Indeed, this is the finest media support that we have received during the current campaign and we are most grateful.

Louis A. Langie Jr.
President,
United Community Chest

Opinions to the editor should be addressed: Letter to the Editor, Courier-Journal, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. They should be no longer that 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

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Courier-Journal

"HOLD IT! YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY THESE KIDS WHERE?"

Sister Rebuts Claims

Editor:

I would like to thank you and Barbara Moynehan for the article [4/18/73] dealing with the question of religious services for the residents of Plymouth Gardens. It was by far the clearest coverage the committee has received to date.

I would like to clarify a few points:

(1) St. Monica's does not own a bus which could transport people anywhere;

(2) The question is not the transportation of seniors to one Roman Catholic Church, but the availability of services of varied religious denominations to the residents;

(3) Basically, the committee is requesting the extension of the same policy which Rochester Management has already implemented at Seneca Towers, i.e. availability of religious services.

(4) Finally, Mr. Brockmyre feels the committee acted in poor taste. We are not finding fault in low cost housing, per se, but the responsiveness of those managing it to the residents' needs.

Sister Barbara Moore,
Pastoral Assistant,
St. Monica's Parish