

Editorial

What Would You Do With \$92 Billion?

One of the faults of lobbying is the fact that the issues involved often become lost amid the propaganda and blather. And this is not a minor drawback.

For instance, consider the B-1 bomber. As columnist Jack Anderson recently pointed out, the prime contractor for the bomber, Rockwell International, has directed such an extensive lobbying campaign in favor of the B-1, that the basic merits, or lack of same, has been lost in the verbal flak.

Anderson writes that Rockwell's arguments are mostly extraneous, such as the creation of more jobs, and demonstrates "that well-financed lobbies are the Achilles heel of American democracy." Anderson reports that when a congressman asked Rockwell for the basic economic facts about the bomber, "Rockwell rushed him some charts that ignored his question but showed the program would generate 45,000 jobs and \$2.3 billion in business for New York and New Jersey" — the congressman's home base.

Of course, economy is an important consideration as regards this bomber. One, at today's prices, will cost in the neighborhood of \$100 million — and that's a ritzy neighborhood. For instance the cost of one B-1 could finance 1,000 rural health clinics for a year.

Naturally, no one wants to be naked before their enemies, and we shouldn't forget for a moment that this country shares the world with some mighty unfriendly powers. But is this manned bomber needed in a world dominated by intercontinental guided missiles? Many strategists already feel that the bomber is obsolete while still on the drawing table. Must we spend \$92 billion on a fleet of these birds strictly on the say-so of the Pentagon or on the word of a company with a profit motive?

While Rockwell talks of the jobs the B-1 will produce, it should be remembered that the work will last only as long as production of the planes. If that same amount of money could be spent on housing or education permanent jobs could be produced as well as fulfilling some desperate needs of our society.

Before we all run scared behind the B-1 we should seriously consider if by spending this kind of money on this particular plane we might not be playing into the hands of our enemies, namely the U.S.S.R. which is putting its resources into missiles?

Ninety-two billion dollars! Think about it. Then consider some of the things you would like to see done for this country to make it truly the leader of the world. Is the B-1 the answer? We think not.

The O'Hair Rumor

Every so often a false rumor makes the rounds and just simply refuses to die. Such is the case with the erroneous report that Madalyn Murray O'Hair has filed a petition with the Federal Communications Commission to prevent religious broadcasters from preaching over the radio.

Actually the FCC did receive a petition from other parties which only proposed curtailing further assignments of FM educational frequencies to religious radio stations. That was in 1974 and this paper editorialized against that petition which eventually was denied by the FCC.

The O'Hair rumor apparently is an outgrowth of that situation. We have tried to put it to rest in this diocese several times but it persists.

The FCC is still receiving 8,000 letters a day on the matter which all amounts to much ado about nothing.

Ms. O'Hair, please do not file such a petition at this juncture. The confusion would just be too much.

Opinion

Keep OB Unit Open

Editor:

I am angry about renewed efforts to close St. Joseph's Hospital's obstetrical department in my hometown, Elmira.

Our country is rapidly becoming socialistic which is a real threat to our freedoms. We need free enterprise to sustain our democracy. By eliminating competition at any level we only lose another piece of our freedom and heritage.

All thinking Americans must protect our rights every chance we can. Please join me in demanding our right to keep St. Joseph's obstetric unit available to all.

Mary S. Cain
1407 W. Water St.
Elmira, N.Y.

Quiggle Praised

Editor:

As a coach in the CYO elementary basketball league for the past eight years and working in the Day Camp Program for three summers, I would like to commend the CYO and in particular Jack Quiggle for a job well done.

I cannot help but wonder whether those who criticize CYO and its basketball program (or at least fail to pay it its due) realize the extent of its influence on Monroe County's youth. The league consists of approximately 125 teams (boys and girls elementary, boys high school, fifth and sixth grade league) involving about 1,500 children. And there are 800 cheerleaders involved.

The value of the program can be seen in two facts. First, all the coaches are volunteers. Many have been involved for several years and are a testimony to the worth of the program. Willing to give freely of their time and effort, they will attest to the intangible profit of their involvement with the youths. Second, in spite of an increase in the entry fee this year (due to rising costs and decreased aid from certain agencies) the number of teams entered actually increased this

year. More and more people are recognizing its value.

The main reason for this letter, however, is to commend the person responsible for it all — Jack Quiggle. As director of the CYO's basketball and softball programs, as well as several other projects, it was Jack who saved the dying league and expanded it to what it is today. Through his singular efforts, he managed to schedule every game, keep all the coaches informed weekly of the scores and standings, act as a sounding board for complaints and defend the league against its critics. Without his untiring efforts, I doubt whether the program would have survived.

He is leaving the CYO and my hope is that his successor has the same feeling for youth and an understanding of what is valuable for their development. There has been talk that the basketball and softball programs will be allowed to die now that Jack is not there to defend them. What a gross injustice and terrible mistake that would be.

Paul J. Forte
612 Eastbrooke Lane
Rochester, N.Y. 14626

Amendment Urged

Editor:

Representatives Parren Mitchell of Maryland will introduce an amendment (in the House) to the First Budget Resolution during the week of April 25-29 to transfer \$15.4 billion from the Military Budget into social programs. About 300,000 jobs in the military sector will be lost, but about 950,000 new jobs in other categories will be created: a net gain of 650,000 jobs.

If you are against wasteful, and unnecessary proliferation weapons and want this money to go human needs, this is a good (or better still telegraph) your Congressman and urge him to vote for the Mitchell Amendment, and you can ask our President to show his support for it.

The address for your Congressman is U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Adolphe and Loe d'Audiffret
RR 2, Naples, N.Y. 14512

COURIER-JOURNAL

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Courier Journal 1



"ASK HIM WHERE HE MADE HIS SPIRITUAL RETREAT THIS YEAR!"

Rahner on Magisterium

Editor:

What on earth are they teaching at St. Bernard's? At first we had a list of seminarians in opposition to Pope Paul's declaration banning women from the priesthood. Now, we have Mr. Kevin Morrisroe (C-J March 30), also from St. Bernard's, writing that as long as it is a non-infallible teaching there can be a dissent. This is so incredibly pathetic coming from one supposedly learned in Catholic doctrine, that I am at a loss for words.

However, since Father Karl Rahner's name was mentioned in connection with this absurd catharsis, I feel that the air should be cleared as to where this truly holy and faithful priest-theologian placed himself with the Magisterium of the Church. In his book "Nature and Grace" (Page 52) Father Rahner teaches that the ordinary magisterium "is binding on the faithful in conscience just as the teaching through the extraordinary magisterium is." And for those who feel they can pick and choose which belief they will or will not adhere to, he writes (Page 54), "those who think that in their individual case they can still objectively justify their offense against the law by appealing to their situation with subtle theoretical excuses, or by appealing to their 'conscience' or even to a private enlightenment from God, are in very serious and dangerous error. They can only succeed in deceiving themselves, for they are suppressing God's truth."

It appears to me that the only thing we have heard from those who are constantly at odds with the Holy Father is a vast amount of half-truths. And with any thought at all, one must admit that in half-truths there can only be untruths.

William D. Morgan Sr.
2060 West Side Drive
Rochester, N.Y. 14624

Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced, with names and addresses. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

Homosexuality Unacceptable

Editor:

Today I received a memo sent to all priests of the diocese urging them to support the drive to extend the equal protection of the law to all homosexual persons. While I concur that "all people are children of God," that premise does not imply that religious leaders especially should close their eyes to a vowed practitioner of sin and thus condone it. Religious leaders are bound

to expose sin for what it is when the occasion arises. But this is an age of confusion, an age where it is unpopular in moral areas to make distinctions. Indeed, we are asked in addition to disregard moral values. But we do so to our own peril, for no one is permitted to connive in sin or to declare sin an indifferent matter. Of course, the sinner may escape culpability — but material sin remains material sin. We do not necessarily judge the sinner when we judge the act — but it is incumbent upon religious leaders to be able to judge an act.

Our obligation is to compassion, but not to connivance. If we are going to accept homosexuality, then logically we should also accept female prostitution, and give prostitutes their "rights." Affording legal protection to homosexuality will surely bring about the same proliferation as did legalization of abortion — both of which are abominations before the Lord.

Let us learn to distinguish charity from sentimentality. We are obliged under sanction to charity — but sentimentality is the road to ruination of souls. God knows the difference even if that difference is somewhat obscured for many at this time.

God is charity. He is not sentimental. And charity can demand extreme sacrifice. As we know, God the Father sent His beloved Son to die a most painful and ignominious death. But in our sad imitation of charity, we wish to spare everyone the slightest suffering. Let us teach the homosexual that he is on the road to perdition — that like everyone else, he must with the help of God sublimate instincts which have no lawful expression. No one has the "right" to commit sin. The proof of that is in the punishment for it that God — the all-merciful, all-compassionate — reserves for the unrepentant. And all the sentimentality in the world is not going to change that, for the ways of God are not the ways of man.

It behooves us to try to assist the sinner to turn away from sin and to cling to God — not to pat him on the back in the name of love.

Father Salem Faddoul
St. Nicholas Church
20 Leo St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14621