

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post 4/20/74

'The Saxbe Scandal'

Your lead editorial in the Sunday Post, April 21, entitled "The Saxbe Scandal" proves that the honeymoon is over. Evidentially, all new appointees are allowed a grace period of about three months before the nit-picking starts. The main attribute for which he was praised at the time of his appointment now becomes the primary source of irritation to your editorial writers.

Mr. Saxbe was appointed at a time when the public believed that no politician was to be trusted or believed. He was appointed and confirmed because he had an undisputed reputation for honesty and for speaking candidly. Today few men in public life take a positive stand on any issue, or dare to allow themselves to be quoted on anything. Therefore, it is very reassuring to have the chief legal officer of the country speak his mind and be willing to stand behind his statements.

We from Ohio are not surprised that our former Senator continues his policy of "saying it like it is." It is a trait of most midwesterners, and one which they admire. We prefer our facts straight and not "sugar-coated." When Bill Saxbe makes something "perfectly clear," believe me—it is perfectly clear. He has done this throughout his entire political career and the people of Ohio have appreciated it sufficiently to elect him to the highest offices that the state has to offer. We have also kept a football coach who is known for speaking his mind quite frankly. Both men are admired for their complete honesty and for their outstanding professional abilities. So they find themselves in Hot Water occasionally. As another great midwesterner once said, "If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen."

It is surprising to me that a newspaper noted for its strong stands would fault an official for the same trait. When Mr. Saxbe first referred to the former White House aides as the "Nazis," the phrase was quickly adopted and exploited by the press. Now, it is considered irresponsible and irreverent. As for his stating his "opinion" in the Hearst kidnapping, only time can prove him right or wrong, but please do not deny him his right to his opinion. Perhaps he has to chew shoe leather once in awhile, (haven't you ever printed a retraction) but it is truly unique in this day of double-talking, two-timing, sticky-fingered politicians to have one man here who isn't afraid to be honest. We continue to read The Post in spite of an occasional retraction. Won't you continue



Attorney General William Saxbe to give Attorney General Saxbe your support, too? We need him!
DOROTHY R. KILGORE.
Fairfax.

How does it happen so often in government agencies that men with level heads, common sense and restraint remain in the lower echelon of command while the "loud mouths" are appointed to the top?

Attorney General Saxbe has proclaimed that he is convinced Patricia Hearst was "not a reluctant participant" in the recent San Francisco robbery. Speculation concerning Miss Hearst's involvement is ill-timed when the grand jury has been called and ill-considered when the conjecturing is done by the Attorney General in the press.

Charles Bates, the FBI agent in charge of the case, advisedly confined his remarks to the fact that the FBI was aggressively seeking a solution to the case. The U.S. attorney restricted his remarks to "—a matter for the grand jury to decide."

The leadership of our country is of concern to us all and has been sharply focused in recent months. The federal

government employs many dedicated, wise, creative career servants of the people who many times find themselves governed by an appointed official who relishes seeing his name and conjectured analyses in print.

If Saxbe has other reasons for his irresponsible remarks, I would be delighted to hear them. I respect Mr. Hearst's refined reaction to this latest outrage concerning the family's tragedy.

JEAN JENSEN.

Alexandria.

I have read The Post seven days a week for many years.

Seldom, very seldom, do I agree with its editorials but I wholeheartedly agree with your lead editorial in the April 21 issue regarding Attorney General Saxbe.

It frightens me to know that a man who sounds off on any subject at any time under any circumstances, always in such a foot-in-his-mouth manner, is the top law officer in this country.

His remarks about Patricia Hearst were completely out of place (to say the least) for a man in his position. Disgraceful. His comments about the Shah of Iran were stupid, embarrassing to our country and completely out of the sphere of his office.

Since the President has not seen fit to fire this Micawberish bumbler, I agree with you that the Senate Judiciary Committee should recall him for serious questioning and reconsideration of his appointment.

COURTLAND K. TOWNSEND, SR.
Kensington.

Attorney General William Saxbe's recent remarks concerning the alleged criminality of Patty Hearst may have exposed him as a man who has psychic powers, but it certainly has exposed him as a man unfit to be the chief law enforcement officer of the nation.

The presumption of innocence until proven guilty is a basic concept and tenet of our system of criminal justice. If Saxbe is ignorant of this concept, he has no business being Attorney General. If he is ignoring it, he should be fired immediately. His conduct is truly outrageous.

WARREN M. HERN, M.D.
Black Hawk, Colorado.