

Youth Questions Pollution

Editor, States-Item:

To quote from the Jan. 24 edition of the paper, "Contamination of air and water in metropolitan New Orleans is increasing and we should do something about it soon, say the experts."

We should do something about it soon? No, we must do something about it now! Air and water are two precious necessities of life. We must cherish and protect them. I am only 14 years old, and I am concerned about pollution. Although I'm not a walking encyclopedia on air and water pollution (who is?), I do have a few things to say about it.

God gave us air to play in, breathe, and enjoy. We live by each breath of air. It wasn't given to us to pollute. So why is our air polluted? Has no one cared enough to do anything about it?

Factories, cars, planes, boats, many things contribute to air pollution day by day. But why is there air pollution? In later years, must I be confined indoors, going outside only with a gas mask? Should I or any of the other countless innocent Americans be forced to suffer because of a few people's carelessness? Will children be born not to breathe fresh air?

Pollution must be stopped, either voluntarily by the sources, or by force by the government. Somebody has to do something, something positive, something now. Air pollution has gone far enough. It has got to be stopped. . .

Our lakes are in sad shape. Polluted, dead fish, no swimming, no clean, pure water to drink. Water is the liquid man thrives on, but polluted water is justified. They justify it by pouring chlorine in the dirty stuff and saying, "Here is clean water."

Peter Dakutis

Israeli History

Editor, States-Item:

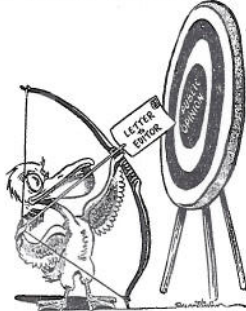
There recently appeared in the States-Item "Letters to the Editor", one headed "Stay Out," in which the writer, identified only by his initials, took an extreme pro-Arab position and inveighed against what he termed aid to Israel.

For the record, the State of Israel at no time ever suggested armed intervention in its behalf by the United States. It has asked only for the privilege of buying and paying for weapons with which to defend itself against the avalanche of arms poured in gratis by Soviet Russia to the Arab States. It should always be remembered that Israel is fighting the battle for the West virtually alone in that area.

The anonymous writer also

charged that Israel had practically ousted the Arabs from their home, and now also wanted the front lawn. A most inept analogy. First of all, not one square foot of privately owned Arab land was ever confiscated. The Jewish settlers paid exorbitant prices and bought and paid for the land they occupied. Only public lands were ever taken over by the Israeli government.

But, as for the house analogy, the house was the house of Israel, and the title to it was given Israel by God Almighty. The Jews were driven from it by the Romans, who in turn were driven out by the Arabs. The Arabs were overthrown by the Christian Crusaders, and



they in turn were driven out by the Seljuk Turks under Saladin. The Seljuk Turks were succeeded by the Egyptian Mamelukes and they in turn, by the Ottoman Turks. The British occupied it after the First World War, until in 1948, when the house of Israel was finally returned to its rightful owners, after the long succession of squatters.

It may be noted, historically, that even the Romans left the Holy Land a land of milk and honey, but during the short period of Arab rule, it became a land of desolation. The Jews have again made it a land of milk and honey. Does anyone doubt that, if the catastrophe occurs and the Arabs regain dominance, it will again become a desert.

Michel Watsky

'Cajun Curtain'

Editor, States-Item:

I noticed in your Jan. 31 issue a letter from Mrs. B. J. McCollister, praising Jim Garrison. I have never written to you before, but as a longtime Orleansian I have had to bite my lip not to. But the time has come.

Mrs. McCollister says her children, the lucky tykes, will now know — because of that big white knight — that Garrison had evidence and that he did "what any other honest and responsible district attorney would do in his position to conduct an investigation, regardless of

strong opposition."

Now for a few notes from outside "the cajun curtain":

Does Mrs. McCollister or anybody else in New Orleans REALLY think Jim Garrison has anything?

Does anybody believe that Garrison has not damaged New Orleans and Louisiana by his absolutely ridiculous "probe"? (Does she think that the 12 jurors who took less than an hour were fixed by somebody?)

Does Mrs. McCollister or anybody REALLY believe that thousands of government officials, investigators, policemen, sheriff's officers, reporters and citizens were in on this vast conspiracy Garrison sees? (It takes that many if you're sensible about it).

There was nothing quite as degrading as admitting I was from New Orleans after the Clay Shaw trial. The only saving grace was that I heard that your newspaper editorialized for his ouster. But now I see where your paper is again parroting Garrison's frenzied lines about the CIA, etc.

I know that pride — and in some cases, fear — enter into this inane backing of a man who would be the laughing stock of many cities. Still, can't New Orleans, my lovely hometown, snap out of it?

Horace Fontenot

Priestly Celibacy

Editor, States-Item:

I protest Pope Paul VI's recent declaration that priestly celibacy cannot be abandoned or even discussed. I protest against being denied the right to speak out, loud and clear, on an issue that is perplexing many people.

I protest that because of a "church code" many priests are not free to decide, much less discuss, the direction of their lives. This protest I have the right to make. This protest I have the obligation to make. Join me in my protest, anyone?

The question still remains. Will the official church continue to legislate into the life of the unique person priest the demand that he be celibate even if he could be a more Christian and better priest were he to marry?

Meanwhile, what has happened to Pope Paul? He is giving evidence of approaching a state of mind, which in my vocabulary, is not equated with sainthood.

The Rev. Patrick Murphy

Asks Action

Editor, States-Item:

The editorials on Judges Haggerty and Braniff are courageous, forthright and honest. But words alone cannot solve a problem. Let us not only sit back, nod our heads and say "Amen". Perhaps we can do something. It is time to do something about our lack of law enforcement and lack of respect for the law (including the judiciary).

All the "letters to the editor" in the world cannot provide the action we need here in New Orleans. The time is NOW to do something.

A. C.