

Letters to The States-Item

Loses faith in lawmen, officials

Perhaps, being an overly idealistic young person, I was more susceptible to the disheartening news than my hardened elders. I felt betrayed and used as I listened to the repetition of misconduct attributed to our leaders.

For at least the fourth time this year I have been deluged with the filth accumulated by my protectors and yours — our lawmen.

These reputedly honest, hardworking, self-sacrificing men, (and, perhaps, women) have stripped me of respect for and belief in our system of self-government. They have consistently been shown, through scandal, "busts," and lesser offenses, to be dishonest, lazy, selfish, parasites sucking the blood of an innocent and often misinformed public.

My confidence in our network of law enforcement is shaken by reports of judges, district attorneys, and various public servants reaping the benefits from organized crime — syndicated networks set up for the express purpose of filching the general public. The people of these syndicates are sacrificing Louisianians with approving nods and benevolent backslaps from our elected officials.

If the example of the older generation has any influence upon the younger one it is hard for me to discern. This past year has been one of exhilaration and success for the youth of this city. They have planned and put through a number of programs ranging from improving race relations to encouraging voter education and registration. They have become unified to a point of embarrassment for those not in the youth culture.

While grownup, mature people of two parishes play tug-of-war with a domed stadium, kids of three parishes rework a very lacking Audubon Park zoo.

While grownups, mature people argue

over a bridge which would alleviate traffic problems (and, thus, needless deaths), the youth initiate CODE, a drug education program designed to alleviate needless drug-wasted lives and deaths.

If the youth of New Orleans can shoulder their burdens responsibly and put their noses to the grindstone, as they have, I cannot and will not accept the palaver of public puppets and mature, grownup people who, solely through seniority, hold the power.

Anne-Marie Vandenweghe

Just an overnight hike?

Boutte, La.

Mr. Gallinghouse has said that before he gets through with his investigations in scandals in high places he will make the Louisiana Hayride look like a Boy Scout picnic. Now Mr. Roemer of the ethics committee says that he is going to run all of the deadheads off the payroll and those on the 256 boards who are not giving service commensurate with their pay. If he does this he will make the Exodus look like an overnight hike.

Strange these things only happen during election year. All of the comics are not in the funny paper.

Stanley Tinney

Critical of Sapir

In reference to Mr. Eddie Sapir . . . when arrested Mr. Sapir screamed to high heaven about his rights, refusing the ticket the officers were trying to issue.

If he were innocent, all he had to do was sign the ticket, give up his license and he would have been told what day to appear in court. If he had conducted himself properly, no one but he, the officers involved and possibly a few clerks would have known that he had gotten the

ticket. It is my belief that Mr. Sapir is a publicity hound, or he never would have caused the trouble that he did.

A few weeks ago, I received a ticket for an expired brake tag. I calmly signed the ticket, gave up my chauffeur's license to the officer, and drove away. Later I . . . paid my fine, and no one even knew that I received a ticket, other than the officer, a few clerks, and myself.

If Mr. Sapir is an example of the city councilmen in New Orleans, may the good Lord help us. . . .

Edward F. Benoit

New York Times spies

Belle Chasse, La.

It seems reasonable to have a criminal hearing and trial to satisfy the newspaper editors wishes: To go to jail. Possibly we can give Daniel Ellsberg the maximum penalty for espionage (woe behold us common people if we did it) for leaking top secret papers.

It does not make an iota of difference if the classification process was wrong, the Pentagon papers still are top secret. In most countries the criminals would be tried already, but not our country, for espionage which helps other countries.

However, one precedent will show the press how weak-minded the Supreme Court is. Then we will have Soviet spies and New York Times spies working together.

Melvin J. Burmaster Jr.

Hit the road

In view of the way proud Yankee Richard J. Bruce feels about us Southerners (June 26), I have a word of advice for him: Yankee Go Home!

M. Dupont