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Editorial

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

November 14, 1968
Honorable Mayor - Hubert Clark
City of Midlothian
Midlothian, Texas
Dear Sir:

I wish to register a complaint against the Police of Midlothian. I just found out yesterday, November 13, that my son was given a ticket on the night of October 11, 1968. The ticket was for burning off. This car that my son drives has no automatic transmission, and it is impossible

to burn off in it. I will bring the car to you to let you check it. You can see for yourself that it just can not be done. In talking to my children, my daughter, Elaine, was also in the car. They tell me what happened was the car's tires slipped in loose gravel on the corner near the Elementary School. If you will check you will find loose gravel is very bad on this corner. I have never heard of it being a violation of the law for the rear tires to slip on gravel, and I have been driving all my life. This is the way I make a living. I have almost two million miles of safe driving awards, and if I

had been given a ticket every time my wheels had slipped on gravel, wet, or slick roads, I would have a barrel of tickets.

I have the greatest respect for the law and what it stands for, and I will fight for the law when that law is right, but I will fight against that same law when I think it is wrong. I believe the law should be a friend to these kids to help them when they get out of line. I know all of these boys who play football at Midlothian. These are some of the finest boys that God ever put on this green earth. These are not the glue sniffers or the hippies you read about. These are boys that any town should be proud of. But to lay and wait in the dark for them from a ball game to give them a ticket when they haven't done anything. This reminds me of a bandit waiting for a victim in the night. Like I said, I didn't know about this until yesterday. Had I have known, I would have fought this as long as I could stand.

This boy of mine has been taking his lunch money and saving it to pay on this ticket. I understand that he went to pay the balance he owed, and the Judge told him that it would be five dollars more since he had taken so long in paying it. Is this honest? Is this true law? Is this the way to help these kids become better CITIZENS? Also I learnt of another instance which I would like to bring out. On the week of our Homecoming football game, the boys were working on their floats and on finishing some of the boys got into their cars, and according to my son, a couple of the boys took off a little fast. My son tells me he took off in a normal way because he wasn't going to get another ticket, but a few blocks from the place where they were working on the float, he was stopped and threatened with another ticket, because some one had turned them in as a complaint. Now I believe in the law and I teach my kids to have respect for the law, but such things as this can ruin all I've tried to teach these kids over

the years. I hear all these kids talking about how much they hate the law at Midlothian now, and I think this is wrong. I think they should have respect for the law. On the night he was given this ticket he was returning from Feris where he tried to lead his team to a victory, but we lost and this was what was waiting for him at home. I wonder if Midlothian really deserves these boys. If you have any doubts about this boy, go up to the school and ask Mr. Irvin or any of the other teachers about him.

I stand for good clean law, and I will fight for good law, but I think the law was wrong this time.

Respectfully Yours,
Jack W. Logan

**CHILDREN TO CHILDREN,
INC.**

"Peace
on
Earth"

Telephone 338-7200

Office of the President

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1144 18th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C.

November 22, 1968

Mr. Penn Jones, Jr., Editor

The Midlothian Mirror

Midlothian, Texas

Dear Mr. Jones

A friend in Midlothian has very kindly sent me a copy of your editorial of October 31st, and I am prompted to write and ask you why, as a reputable journalist, you would presume to write on a subject on which you do not have the right facts?

So that you will in the future, have your facts correct, I am sending you, under separate cover, a copy of "A Gift of Prophecy"—the book which tells about my "Source." I hope you will enjoy it—and will base any further articles about my Source on the facts contained therein.

When you are in Washington, please stop in and see me.

Know that my prayers are with you for Divine Guidance always.

Bless you,
Jeane Dixon

Editor's Note:

Fortune telling is illegal in

most states. In the past most fortune tellers operated by making an illegal deal with the local authorities—fee splitting, some call it.

It appears now, however, not only do these seers get top billing in the mass media, they can have tax free foundations to hide their income. And they complain bitterly and pray for a weekly editor when he criticizes their activities.

November 11, 1968

Mr. Penn Jones, Jr., Editor

Midlothian Mirror

Midlothian, Texas 76065

Dear Mr. Jones:

Early in July I wrote the following article neglecting to get it to the paper at that time. This was written soon after Mr. C. M. Koonce, Superintendent of the Public Schools, came to work with us. It is as follows:

NEW MAN ON THE SCENE

We have a change oriented school board and an imaginative young superintendent. One of the first changes will involve decentralization of administration. The central office must operate more as a foundation which helps schools carry out programs and less as a military headquarters.

Many applicants this year are young teachers, recent graduates attracted to Midlothian by its

shocking look at how sick our schools really are for lack of modern methods, equipment, and materials.

We are on the brink of "coming alive" with legitimate hopes of being able to reverse the trend of educational decay.

Outwardly, Mr. Koonce projects an image of competence, casual friendliness, and sincerity—traits which will rapidly re-open virtually all channels of communications between the schools and the community.

Inwardly, we would describe him as a hard worker, a fighter, and "gutsy."

The superintendent of schools is probably the only man in his community who must conduct his business—all of it—out in the open. When he pulls a boner it is for everyone to see. The awesome job of just running a school

system from day to day is loaded with political dynamite. One false step may bring the roof down.

Let us not be critical of new ideas set before us, instead, examine these ideas and methods.

Curriculum and teaching methods need modernization and improvement.

Economy measures have prevented the system from having adequate school specialists in subjects like art and music. More money is needed to support these changes. With the recent increase in taxes the tax rate is not high compared with the rate in most of the schools of the state, in fact it is very low.

Many people who oppose increased taxes do so because they feel they cannot "afford" the cost or because they simply don't want to pay more. But they can't admit to this base motive. Rumors, criticism, and accusations, then, provide a handy source of excuses for not doing what, morally and intellectually many know should be done.

So may our administrator be left to consider teacher quality and assignment, course offerings, equipment, and building, use of schools for community activities and human relations training.

There is no doubt that staff members are going to be involved as they've never been involved before. If the staff is not involved in setting some goals and priorities, then we are prob-

ably not going to be retained.

The Board of Education of the Midlothian Independent School District does not face the most vexing single question facing many boards throughout the nation on how to deal with segregation. As you know, the Midlothian Schools have been fully

integrated the past two years without a single incident.

Let us then look forward to the time this school system is a model for the nation—would you settle for the best in Texas?

Sybil Mahanay

Since the above article was written we have completed more than two months of the 1968-69 school term and never has there been so many changes and/or probable changes in the public school system.

We have had representatives from the Texas Education Agency from almost every department other than Financial Audit since September 1 and the independent auditor has covered that area.

A survey team comprised of G. W. Whitt, Travis Smith, and Don Weston from the Texas Education Agency made an accreditation survey of the Midlothian Schools on September 26-27. The report of this accreditation survey was given to the Superintendent and it was recommended that if the Midlothian Schools planned to meet accreditation standards all of these more than twenty deficiencies described in this report must be removed.

To do this the Midlothian Schools should progress with plans as rapidly as possible to construct a new high school complex that will meet the standards in English, Science, Vocational Courses and any and all other key courses in the regular high school curriculum. There must also be additions to existing buildings to relieve the overcrowded conditions in the elementary grades.

You are familiar with the recent release of the Governor's Committee recommending all small schools be annexed to larger systems. In this recommendation is included the adoption of a new State Aid Equalization Formula based on the proposed Market Value Index. This indicates in a very short time all taxes may be set by the state and we shall be expected to pay them whether we maintain a school in Midlothian or fail to make progress and find ourselves transporting our students to Waxahachie.

It has been our privilege to

attend several meetings at the Region X Educational Service Center in Richardson, one of which was conducted by Dr. Edgar, Commissioner, Texas Education Agency. In each of these meetings schools were urged to upgrade their educational programs if they expected to retain

their schools.

Arriving early at the most recent workshop one of the gentlemen from the Agency moved back into the auditorium to chat. One of his questions was "What do the people in your community think of the Governor's Committee report concerning the abolishment of small school districts?" My reply was that if we were making progress we didn't feel that we would lose our schools, to which he replied "Good, good, you would be surprised at the schools who have given up, saying if they are going to take our school there is no point in making improvements."

Quoting one of the accreditation team "We have one of the most promising young educators in Texas"; the best staff we have had in years according to the principals.

If education is the key to the good life in America, and the key doesn't work we're in trouble.

Then let us remember procrastination is putting off until tomorrow the things that were put off until today, also the quickest way to warm up discussion is by rubbing two opposing opinions together. Let us not be guilty of either, when and if the Board of Education, who have spent long hours in planning, present to this district the proposal that will give us a possible chance to retain a public school in this community.