

Getting Smart

BY WALTER L. SMART
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We are victims of new youth gang slayings, more fratricide, more crimes of utter senseless violence. Because we are the focus of violence, does this mean we can be a part of the solution?

We have to be very careful not to fall into the "lock-em-up" trap. It is very easy for us to say there should be stronger penalties for crimes. In Lybia, Colonel Gadafi has re-instituted traditional punishments for crimes of violence and crimes against property. If you steal, your hand will be chopped off. If you kill, that will be your punishment. I see a movement in this country toward that end.

The issue of violence is not an issue alone. Men kill to end immediate problems, failing to take into account massive long range consequences.

We have been bred in a history of violence for property rights. This history places a higher value on objects of worth than of the human body. We have become desensitized and contemptuous of the warmth and inestimable value of the human being. We have placed relative worth on all

people. To this end our soldiers call Vietnamese "gooks". Our police called us "savages". We think of ourselves as less than men. Yes, racism manifests in violence and so does self-hate.

This is the price we pay for, and continue to pay for our lack of values. We are in need of a cultural revolution, be it religious or secular, that will help us embrace a human value system — a value of life. This should be our ultimate goal.

We press for stronger penalties for crimes against humanity. We press for police review boards, more courts, more jails. We understand that all of these are band-aids for a cancer.

Our youth cries out for guidance, for higher values, another piper who will help us find the proper road.

Men do not look at the high penalties for illegal actions started by passion. A man in jabs stops because of his understanding and belief in right and wrong. Quickly lifting a knife, a blade, a gun, he stops because he knows what he is about to do is wrong, not because he will be punished.

SBA realigns functions

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced a realignment of its regional functions effective Monday, October 15, 1973.

According to SBA Regional Director Daniel B. Ward, the functional changes are designed to speed up SBA services by placing more of the decision-making process at the local level. "We have already undertaken a major step in the decentralization of authority from our Central Office in Washington, D.C. to the regional offices. The new realignment will help make the agency even more sensitive to the needs of the people it was created to serve," Ward said.

The regional Director said that based on a management board review of current regional operations three major recommendations were suggested:

1. Realign the current Northwest regional city office by the creation of a new SBA District Office in Seattle. The new Seattle District Office will function as an operating office with responsibility identical to other SBA district offices in Spokane, Portland, Boise and Anchorage (SBA also has a branch office in Fairbanks). This will allow the regional director and his key staff to devote their full time and attention to policy implementation and the review of regional activities. "It will also place a clearly identified team in charge of each area being served," Ward said.

2. Combine the Agency's financing, loan administration and community economic development activities into a single unit. This will provide a single key official the responsibility for all financing activities, improve the coordination of these activities and provide a better means of utilizing agency personnel resources.

3. Place increased emphasis on the function of management assistance to small business with specific emphasis on the SBA portfolio. "It's been said that businesses do not fail, but that businessmen do. Rather than lack of money, often the most acute handicap to a businessman is his lack of management and technical know-how," Ward said. "Too often the small businessman is not a good manager. He can be leading his business to failure without even realizing that it is happening."

The new Seattle District SBA office will be located in the present SBA facilities — Fifth Floor, Dexter-Horton Building, 710 Second Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98104, telephone 442-5534.



Operation PUSH is spearheading a nationwide "African Relief Drive" to provide food for starving persons of the Central West African nations. PUSH also urges that Congressman be contacted to urge that the United States make a realistic commitment to assist the people of Africa during this crisis.

THE FAMILY LAWYER

Godless Parents

At first blush, the Wilsons—seemed to be well suited for parenthood. They were a devoted, idealistic young couple, with high standards of morality.

But there was a problem. They did not believe in a Supreme Being. Was this grounds for disqualifying them as adoptive parents?

After a court hearing, the judge said it was not and granted the adoption. It would be unconstitutional, he said, for the state to require a belief in God in order to adopt a child.

The First Amendment not only requires the state to be neutral between various religions," added the judge, "but between religion and non-religion as well."



Most courts would agree that a belief in God is not essential. Nevertheless, religious attitudes may carry at least some weight in the determination of parental fitness.

Thus, in another case, a court ruled in favor of adoptive parents (and against the child's own father) partly because of the religious atmosphere of their home. As one judge put it:

"Religion and morality are inextricably interwoven in the lives of most people in this country, and belief in the tenets of a religion may be indicative of moral fitness in a particular case."

Furthermore, it usually helps if the would-be parents and the child have the same religion. Often, state laws call for this "matching up" of religious affiliations.

But again, this is not a hard-and-fast rule. Thus, courts have allowed non-matching adoptions when it would take considerable time to find adopting parents of the same faith.

"In view of the emphasis placed by child care experts on a stable and wholesome environment in early infancy," said one court, "delay must be deemed detrimental."

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Cook asks legislation regulating oil sales

Senator Vern Cook has requested the Oregon Legislative Counsel to begin drafting legislation regulating the sale and distribution of petroleum products in Oregon under the office of the public utilities commissioner. Senator Cook stated:

"It's time the people of Oregon stepped in to regulate the irresponsible practices of the great oil monopoly and attempt to restore some vestige of free competition and free enterprise. Probably because of the massive political contributions of the oil industry to presidential campaigns over the past several years, the federal government and congress have failed to take any effective action in this field. While we are limited in what we can do, the State of Oregon is not helpless in dealing with these totally selfish interests.

"As a minimum, we should have legislation requiring fuel oil and gasoline wholesalers to sell to any person who

wishes to distribute fuel oil, or gas, without discrimination as to price or quantity. Since the oil companies have engaged in price fixing for years with a total disregard for the public, the public utilities commissioner should have the right to regulate maximum prices at the wholesale level of all petroleum products.

"The way to accomplish these objectives is by state legislation which I hope I can have ready for introduction at the January 1974 special session."

A new curriculum is being developed with Adams High School and the Crown Zellerbach research department, two faculty members and four Adams students. Fifteen students will meet four days a week, including a trip to the CZ mill at Camas. The project is being introduced particularly with regard to the needs and interest of minority and female students.



Barnes leads

Thomas Master Sergeant Thomas N. Barnes, 43, has been selected as the new Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. Sergeant Barnes was selected from among 22 outstanding airmen representing each major air command and separate operating agency.

As the top enlisted man in the Air Force, Sergeant Barnes will advise and assist the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Air Force on matters concerning enlisted members of the Air Force.

Republicans support DC Home Rule

Key Black Republican supporters of home rule for the District of Columbia met October 1st with Republican National Committee Chairman George Bush and Arthur A. Fletcher, Consultant to the Chairman for Minority Affairs to discuss ways to increase the support of House Republicans for passage of legislation which would give D.C. residents the right of self-government.

Meeting with Bush and Fletcher were Melvin M. Burton Jr., a Washington attorney who is Vice Chairman of the D.C. Republican Committee; Samuel Jackson, an attorney and former Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and a representative of the Capital City Republican Club; and Stuart Pace II, also a representative of the Capital City Republican Club and Vice President of Dialogue Systems Inc. of Washington and

New York. In order to help arrange meetings between D.C. Black Republican leaders and Republican House members, Bush pledged the RNC's support for passage of a home rule bill consistent with the 1972 Republican Party Platform which stated: "We support voting representation for the District of Columbia in the United States Congress and will work for a system of self-government for the city which takes fair account of the needs and interests of both the federal government and the citizens of the District of Columbia."

According to Fletcher, "the fact that Black Republicans

have taken a key leadership role in this effort to secure passage of home rule for District residents is reflective of their pledge to become more active in the Party. One of the goals of the meeting with RNC officials and proposed meetings between Black Republicans and Republicans in the House of Representatives is to "clear up some of the gray areas" and bring to the surface for discussion some of the differences of opinion on proposed legislation, according to Fletcher. He noted that the role of the Republican National Committee is that of a broker.

WOMEN on Wheels

HELPFUL SAFETY TIPS

by Elizabeth Stimley
Plymouth Safety Writer

IF STEERING FAILS

Power steering is like a dishwasher. You can do without either but life is nicer with them.

If you've never driven without power steering, you can't possibly appreciate how much it contributes to easy handling.

But if it quits functioning, you'll learn to love it in a hurry.

Here's a way to find out what it feels like to drive without power steering before it happens.

Drive to a deserted lot. Start the car and drive a few feet, now while the car is still rolling, kill the engine, by turning the key back one notch. Now try and steer. Turning will take a lot more effort but it can be done.

Should you lose power steering while driving, move out of heavy traffic and make a couple of slight turns of the steering wheel to see how much effort it will take.

If you can still handle the car, turn on the four-way flashers to warn other drivers you're having trouble, and head for the nearest repair shop.

Probably nothing drastic has happened. You may be out of power steering fluid or have a bad drive belt.

If you can't handle it, pull off slowly on the shoulder, keeping the wheels straight. Leave on the four-way flashers, and raise the hood. Lock the doors and wait for a policeman.

Get it fixed immediately.



How much does it cost to care for an empty hospital bed?

It costs about \$50,000 per bed to build a hospital in Oregon. But that's just the beginning. Many people and a vast amount of expensive equipment must be available day and night in case someone needs the bed. So maintaining or caring for a bed, whether it's empty or occupied, costs \$29,000 a year.

That's why it's important that there aren't too many beds—or too few beds—in any community. Too many beds raise the cost of health care unnecessarily. Too few beds can be disastrous. To prevent either possibility, voluntary Health Planning Associations in Oregon guide the planning for adequate health facilities, services, and manpower throughout the state.

In addition, they help coordinate emergency services. They look into health problems caused by the environment. They help eliminate duplication of expensive

facilities and equipment. They look to see if hospitals, mental health care services, public health clinics, and treatment centers are adequate. They plan for health care just as they plan for the community plan for schools—highways—urban development.

These organizations are set up throughout the state. There is one State Comprehensive Health Planning Authority. And there are 14 local Comprehensive Health Planning Associations which are dependent upon local financing in order to obtain matching federal funds.

Although the Comprehensive Health Planning Associations are staffed by professionals, consumers now have a voice in health planning in Oregon. In fact, 51 percent of the members of the boards must be non-professionals. These people, along with professionals, meet to review health care needs in Oregon.

How does Blue Cross of Oregon fit into this?

We feel that Comprehensive Health Planning is the most effective way to assure quality care and contain rising health care costs. So our staff members serve on Comprehensive Health Planning boards and committees. And we help these organizations financially.

We know that this investment will pay off for all the people we serve. After all, we can't honestly say we care for people unless we do everything we can to help them.

If you'd like to learn more about planning for health care in Oregon, just contact your local Comprehensive Health Planning Association or write to Blue Cross of Oregon for information.

Blue Cross of Oregon... we care for people.



Blue Cross
of Oregon