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Warning From Canada

The departure of the Canadian contingent from the ceasefire observation commission in Vietnam carried a warning for the United States.

Michael Gauvin, the head of the Canadian delegation, said the commission has been observing a "war not a ceasefire." He and other Canadians said they thought the conditions were set for a resumption of full war between the Saigon regime and the Viet Cong supported by North Vietnam.

The warning we get from this is plain: Don't get mixed up in that business again.

The Canadians are experienced in policing ceasefires and peacekeeping operations. They were dubious about this one at the start. President Nixon's "peace with honor" seemed very shaky to them. But they went along with the job as good world citizens. Now they have concluded it won't work.

Canada—or at least some of its peacekeeping team—felt that they had been misled by the Americans. They thought they were led to believe secret accords with the Russians and Chinese assured that the North Vietnamese would keep the ceasefire. That idea was spread among the American people, too.

The ceasefire violations have been numerous, and the peacekeeping commission has been unable to investigate most of them because of quarreling among the commission members. The

Communist members, Hungary and Poland, lined up against Canada and Indonesia.

Maybe Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho can fix things up so that the ceasefire can be maintained (or rather begun) and progress made toward peace. There have been hints that such agreement was likely. But optimistic announcements have been made on this subject before. We will wait and see.

Meanwhile, a new member of the ceasefire commission must be chosen, and the Canadian suggestion that it be an Asian country sounds sensible to us. Malaysia would be a good choice. It has had plenty of experience with Communist insurrection and guerrilla warfare.

Canada said it would return to the commission, if needed, when and if the South Vietnamese elections scheduled in the agreement are held.

If the peace cannot be held, some U.S. military advocates may want to go back in to settle things. That would be rejected, we feel, considering the new mood in Congress. And a good thing, too. Surely any American with a grain of sense knows by now that the U.S. cannot "settle things" by armed force in Vietnam. The U.S. is obligated to do everything it can to try to help peace get established—everything except going back to war. The U.S. stake in the outcome does not justify that.

Speedy Trial Required

The Iowa Supreme Court has ruled that criminal charges must be dismissed whenever the accused is brought to trial more than 60 days after indictment unless the prosecution shows "good cause" for the delay. This "speedy trial" ruling puts a burden on prosecutors and the courts to operate more efficiently to prevent the guilty from going free because of court congestion or other delay.

The Legislature for years has required trials within 60 days after indictment. But trials within this period were mandated only for the accused who were unable to make bail and who were unrepresented by lawyers. The Iowa Supreme Court for years interpreted the law as requiring all others to demand a speedy trial in order to be tried within 60 days. Failure to make the request was interpreted as a waiver of the right to speedy trial.

Many states have had similar rules requiring the accused to claim his right to speedy trial in order to obtain it. The U.S. Supreme Court last year threw a cloud over these rules when it declared, "We reject the rule that a defendant who fails to demand a speedy trial forever waives his right." The Iowa Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, relied heavily on the high court ruling in

interpreting the Iowa speedy-trial law as automatically requiring trials within 60 days of indictment for all defendants, not just those in jail awaiting trial who are without lawyers.

The ruling will present problems for county attorneys, but the court is on sound ground in attempting to make the right to speedy trial effective. The sooner the accused goes to trial, the greater the likelihood that witnesses will be available and their memories will be reliable.

Speedy trial minimizes the risks to the community in pre-trial release of potentially dangerous persons and is much preferable to preventive detention. Long delays between arrest and trial, moreover, leave the accused with a cloud over him he has no way to dispel.

The Iowa court ruling makes it necessary for Iowa to develop ways to make the judicial process work more effectively. A good place to start is the office of county attorney, filled for the most part by lawyers who divide their time between their public duties and private law practice. The part-time county attorney system has no place in an age when the constitutional guarantee of speedy trial has been given teeth requiring trial within 60 days or dismissal of the charge.

It Still Is Extortion

The money the Ford Motor Co. paid to the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA) of Argentina evidently is going for food, medical supplies and other benefits for the poor. This use of the money can only be commended. But it is still money taken by the ugly means of extortion. Ford and other companies, as well as governments, may come to regret this giving in a threat.

The PRA threatened to kidnap Ford executives and to attack the Ford plant in Buenos Aires unless the company came through with \$1 million in ambulances, food and medical supplies for the needy.

Some of the aims of the PRA may be laudable, as perhaps have been the purposes of some airplane hijackers. But

the methods of hijacking, blackmail and extortion cannot be tolerated no matter how noble the purposes. This is the mistake Ford made.

It is a tough decision for a government or other institution to resist such demands. West Germany has tended to give in, whereas Israel has adopted the tough policy of refusing to yield to hijackers or blackmailers. Ford did not want to risk the lives of its executives. The top command of the company may have felt that a contribution to the poor in Argentina was justified.

But the trouble is this will encourage PRA and other lawless groups to try the same tactics. In the long run, the results of such means are disruption and loss for everyone.

Court Not Sure About Women

Four U.S. Supreme Court justices believe that distinctions by government based on sex, like distinctions based on race, are "inherently suspect, and must therefore be subjected to strict judicial scrutiny."

Almost no government action that sanctions different treatment because of an individual's race is constitutionally permissible. The same standard applied to sex would all but wipe sex-based distinctions off the statute books and have the same practical effect as adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment.

But only a minority of the high court is willing to go this far. In a case challenging the Defense Department's failure to give male dependents of servicemen the same benefits as female dependents of servicemen, eight justices agreed the government was engaging in unconstitutional discrimination. But only four justices would attach the "inherently suspect" tag to sex discrimination.

The other justices balked chiefly because of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment, which states that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." The unwilling justices declared, "If this amendment is duly adopted, it will represent the will of the people accomplished in a manner prescribed by the Constitution. . . . Reaching out to preempt by judicial action a major political decision which is currently in process of resolution does not reflect appropriate respect for the duly prescribed legislative processes."

The "wait-and-see" attitude adopted

by these justices could delay the attainment of sex equality indefinitely. The Equal Rights Amendment is eight states short of ratification. Failure of three-fourths of state legislatures to ratify the amendment could be taken by the justices as a directive barring them from ruling that sex is a suspect classification under the Constitution.

The high court's failure to label race and sex discrimination equally impermissible is typical of the treatment received by women at the hands of a male-dominated government. In pre-Civil War days, women and slaves were treated equally—neither could hold office, serve on juries, vote or bring suit in their own names. But blacks were guaranteed the right to vote in 1870; women did not get the vote until a half century later. Other rights guaranteed blacks soon after the Civil War were granted women grudgingly years later, and in some cases, not at all.

It is hard to believe that in the latter part of the Twentieth Century some states (but not Iowa) are balking at approving an amendment that would put women on a par with freed slaves—and so too, in effect, is the U.S. Supreme Court.

Keeping peace in large families requires a patient mother, an often-absent father, two bathrooms and at least three television sets. — Dousman (Wis.) Index.

Sign in television repair shop: "Do it yourself—then bring it to us." — San Francisco Chronicle.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Against Tax Breaks For Pollution Control

To the Editor:

The vote by the Iowa Senate to grant a 10-year property tax exemption to industries on equipment installed for pollution control purposes smacks of a political payoff to business at a time when corporate profits are at their highest level in recent history. This situation only compounds the hypocrisy of Iowa's tax structure in that tax relief for the poor, aged, or average Iowa taxpayer has been slow to be even considered, much less acted upon.

I would suggest, as an alternative, that the Legislature enact a system of laws on pollution which make it more profitable for the producer to curtail pollution on his own than to continue to pollute. When pollution exists, the firm polluting should be fined to the extent that it becomes more profitable for the polluting firm to clean up its own pollution, using its own capital, than to continue to be fined. —John E. Hempel, instructor, economics and political science, Clinton Community College, Clinton, Ia. 52722.

Scolds Wilson

To the Editor:

I think it is reprehensible the way Richard Wilson tries to make out that President Nixon is scandal-free and that everything will be just fine once a flourish of foreign policy successes is launched. There is no indispensable man.

If the President is guilty of a cover-up, is it fair to the little men who have to go to prison that he should breeze ahead in the White House in a cloud of glory? Would it be tolerated of the president of a corporation or the head of the Teamsters Union? — Mary Helen Severson, Rt. 3, Webster City, Ia. 50585.

Search for Their Son Goes On

To the Editor:

Recently the Linn County sheriff's department announced that its part in the search for our son, Guy Heckle, is concluded. [Guy Heckle, 11, disappeared Feb. 3 while on a Boy Scout outing. —Ed.]

We are sorry to lose their assistance, but we realize that they have many other important duties which demand their time and attention. They have spent many man-hours in search of our son and we are sincerely grateful.

We want the public to know that the search is definitely continuing. . . . We are unable to give up. There is large backwater area which has never been searched due to the high river level. Each evening when the weather and river level permit, [we] search the riverbank and backwater area until dark. On weekends we are aided by relatives and friends. There are others still searching on their own. . . .

The help we have received from the community is immeasurable. There are not words to express our gratitude, especially for the hopes and prayers of friends and strangers alike. . . .

Either Guy did get lost and drowned in the river; or there is the remote possibility he met with foul play, and he could be anywhere, dead or alive. We are still praying for a miracle and we hope our friends, many of whom we don't even know, will continue to pray with us and aid in the search. — Mr. and Mrs. Howard Heckle and daughters, 1505 Forty-eighth St., N.E., Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52402.

Clarification on Tax-Sharing Issue

To the Editor:

Your state in your editorial, "Sharing Tax Revenues" (May 24):

"The only two ways were cast by senators from Cedar Rapids and Sioux City whose school districts would receive the tax revenues from the two big nuclear [power] stations."

I want to call your attention to the fact that the electric generating plant near Sioux City is not in the Sioux City Community School District, but is located in the Sergeant Bluff-Luton School District.

Consequently, the Sioux City Community School District would be a substantial gainer as a result of this bill — as would City Hall.

Incidentally, I voted for the bill. — State Senator Leonard C. Andersen, 712 S. Glass, Sioux City, Ia. 51106.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We erred in saying the new plant would be in the Sioux City school district. Senator Andersen represents part of Sioux City and the Sergeant Bluff area. He voted against the crucial amendment to require sharing tax revenues from the plant but voted for the bill on final passage.

Has Nixon Not Learned The Perils of Secrecy?

An editorial in the New York Times

PRESIDENT Nixon's speech to the former prisoners of war at the White House was an impassioned defense — not of telling the truth or of obeying the law or of dealing fairly with one's adversaries — but of secrecy.

Secrecy is at the center of the ever-widening Watergate scandals. This whole complicated series of crimes and conspiracies which has already led to the conviction of several individuals, the indictment of others, and the almost certain indictment of still others could not have occurred except in secrecy. Lives have been ruined, careers broken and reputations disgraced because men unwisely gave instructions and committed acts in darkest secrecy which they would not have dared to attempt in the open sunlight or public knowledge.

If there is any individual who should now understand the dangers of secrecy, it is President Nixon. Only the other day, he had to issue a lengthy statement of explanation and apology for secret misdeeds committed in his name and in his interest. No other Chief Executive in the history of the Republic has ever had to say as Nixon said: "It is clear that unethical, as well as illegal, activities took place. . . . To the extent that I may in any way have contributed to the climate in which they took place, I did not intend to; to the extent that I failed to prevent them, I should have been more vigilant."

Obsessive Secrecy

The characteristic feature of that climate in which unethical and illegal activities flourished was secrecy, an obsessive secrecy which is redolent of a police state and which has no place in this democracy. But like the Bourbons, Nixon seems to have forgotten nothing and learned nothing. A man who can exalt the value of secrecy after the ordeal of Watergate is a man willfully incapable of learning from experience.

Traditionally in Europe and increasingly in this country, citizens have permitted their governments to act secretly in foreign affairs. When Nixon argues that without secret negotiations with North Vietnam, China and Russia he could not have made diplomatic gains, he is, in effect, saying that a self-governing democracy has to conform to the rules set by closed, totalitarian societies. It ill-becomes an American president to argue that he has to ape the style of dictators who have contempt for their citizens.

"We have to stop making heroes out of those who steal secrets and publish them in newspapers," Nixon declared.

In putting the question of secrecy and security that way, Nixon demonstrated that he fails to understand the American principle and the American tradition that secrecy in government is something to be held to an absolute minimum, not



"So far, I'm not hurt!"

something to be inflated into a way of life.

It was Thomas Jefferson who laid down the sound American principle: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Repugnant And Untrue

It was Woodrow Wilson who called for "open covenants openly arrived at."

It was the Founding Fathers who wrote the First Amendment making freedom of the press inviolate. They did not provide any constitutional sanction for executive secrecy or for dirty deeds masquerading as national security.

If Nixon's remarks are repugnant in principle, they are also untrue as a statement of fact. If it were not for a free press which exposed the facts about the war in Vietnam, the war might well be going on today and the guests at the White House banquet might still be in Hanoi prison camps. A free press has been one of the most powerful forces for peace in Vietnam as it has been one of the powerful forces in exposing the secret rotteness of Watergate.

The perils of secrecy far outweigh its advantages. Secrecy is a dangerous lure to be resisted rather than a virtue to be cherished. If the President of the United States is incapable of getting straight these fundamental truths, it is all the more important that the former prisoners of war and the rest of us ponder them in these difficult days for the United States of America.

Strange Role of Cuban Exiles At Watergate

By Nathan A. Haverstock

WHATEVER their superiors may have had in mind, it now is clear that most of the perpetrators of the Watergate break-in were motivated by a desire to curry U.S. government favor and win support for interventionist moves to topple the Communist regime of Fidel Castro in Cuba.

"We had hopes that Mr. [E. Howard] Hunt's position in the White House would be a decisive factor at a later date for obtaining help in the liberation of Cuba," testified Bernard L. Barker, one of four Cuban-born Americans who have been convicted and jailed for their part in the Watergate burglary.

Barker himself had served as "the principal assistant" to Hunt at the time of the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961. At that time, Hunt was a high-ranking official of the Central Intelligence Agency, which had obtained presidential approval for a secret plan to recruit, arm and train Cuban exiles to invade their homeland. The invasion proved a fiasco.

Disproportionate Influence

But the dream of turning back the clock in Cuba has not died, particularly among the older and more reactionary members of some 450,000 Cuban exiles who have found refuge in this country from the Castro regime. Highly concentrated, often affluent and disproportionately influential Cuban communities in Miami and New York City, and within the various international agencies in Washington, have been extremely successful in promoting their goal of restoring a discredited old order in Cuba.

Cubans are hard working; they are often absolutely bilingual. At the Organization of American States these talents



FIDEL CASTRO BERNARD BARKER

have helped them obtain major positions as legal, administrative, and financial advisers to the OAS secretary-general.

Given their ability, it is little wonder that the OAS itself has become a major factor in prolonging the isolation of Castro's Cuba. The organization often has maneuvered into investigating poorly founded charges of Cuban subversion in other Latin lands. It has become increasingly at odds with the obvious trend toward the restoration of trade and diplomatic ties with Cuba among other Latin lands.

Logical Extension

Hand in hand with these above-board activities on behalf of their cause, Cuban exiles have made themselves useful to intelligence agencies in monitoring activities inside Cuba. The Bay of Pigs may have damaged the credibility of Cuban-exile sources employed by the CIA, but in 1962 these same sources, as Barker noted in his testimony on Watergate, proved invaluable during the missile crisis. One of his fellow burglars at the Watergate, Barker said, provided the first hard evidence to intelligence authorities that the "Russians" had installed sites capable of delivering a nuclear attack against this country.

For Barker, the "break-ins-into-the offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist and of the Democratic National Committee headquarters were but a logical extension of his previous work at the Bay of Pigs. "Our missions. . . were only to obtain and try to locate documents that would prove that the Democratic Party and Senator McGovern were receiving contributions. . . from national and foreign organizations. . . inclined to violence in the United States, and also from the Castro government."

The burglars didn't find any, nor — as it developed in Barker's testimony — was there any real basis to expect that they would find any.

Exploiting A Zealot

For Barker personally — the first man to volunteer for military service during World War II at the U.S. embassy in Havana, the bombardier whose plane was shot down over Europe and who spent 16 months in a German prisoner of war camp, and the man who gave unstintingly of his time without compensation for Hunt-inspired covert missions — there were some nagging questions. "Frankly, I'm a human being," he contritely told his Senate interrogators. "I don't know all the answers."

In short order, the media began exploiting the 56-year-old zealot, a man described by one reporter here as the kind who would jump off the Washington Monument, saluting all the way down, if Hunt had asked him to. And that was too bad, not because Barker was sadly lacking in judgment, which he was, but because his superiors were so amorally calculating in bending his patriotic fervor to suit their illegal purposes.

Beyond that, there is no excuse for the White House to be so poorly informed on Latin affairs as to encourage the likes of Barker to perpetrate a high political crime for a cause so extraneous to last year's presidential election.

Says Grain Trade Controls Needed to Curb Food Costs

By Richard Wilson

"UNPARALLELED chaos" (the Wall Street Journal's term) invaded the Chicago Board of Trade and Mercantile Exchange on a recent day when events got the better of the speculators.

As I learned recently, the sedate traders in grains do not like references to chaotic conditions, nor the suggestion that anything may be going on which is not a direct result of the laws of supply and demand.

A recent column on a newspaper investigation of chaotic conditions, the lack of adequate federal controls, and the perils of self-policing in the club-like atmosphere of the grain exchanges brought a strong response and denial from the inner sanctums of the trade.

Since it is on the floor of the commodity exchanges that the increase in the cost of food begins to manifest itself, housewives and their bill-paying spouses need to pay more attention to what is going on there.

Speculators Reassured

After the "unparalleled chaos" which sent skyrocketing prices of soybeans, corn and wheat (virtually all of which is ultimately converted to human usage) the federal government and the self-reliant and self-policing grain moguls sought to bring the situation under control.

The government weakly responded that it could not do much about the wild speculation. The directors of the Chicago Board of Trade called in emergency meeting decided merely to raise margin requirements and meet again, which reassured the speculators that they started all over again.

If this continues, President Nixon may as well prepare for the direct control of the price of major farm commodities if he wishes to carry out a pledge to end soaring food costs. In a few weeks soybeans have risen nearly 50 per cent, corn 30 per cent and wheat 22 per cent. It may be, as the grain traders and the government both say, that this is a supply-demand influence.

Prices have been spiraling since the big Russian wheat deal last summer, and the American consumer finds himself in the somewhat uncomfortable position of financing American foreign policy by the increased cost of the food on his table.

It is no use going into the technical-

