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# Twisting Slowly in the Wind?

By RON HENDREN

WASHINGTON — So long as the President continues to maintain a public posture of "hands off" in the escalating conflict between his vice president and his attorney general, he, and not Spiro Agnew, will likely be the loser.

Already Republican leaders throughout the country are beginning to rumble about how what they perceive as Mr. Nixon's indecisiveness is further hurting the party's chances for a respectable showing in the 1974 off-year elections.

The President's attitude is being likened to Sen. George McGovern's botching of the Eagleton affair, and to the White House staff's handling of former F.B.I. acting director L. Patrick Gray ("let him hang there and twist slowly, slowly in the wind").

The public opinion polls also show growing dissatisfaction with Mr. Nixon's neutrality in the Agnew crisis, and that dissatisfaction has, at least in part, contributed to public sympathy for the vice president.

All these factors have combined to embolden Mr. Agnew sufficiently to strike a course for political and personal survival that is completely independent from his boss' wishes, whatever they are. The attorney general, likewise, is doing what he feels he must — again, without apparent regard for the desires of the man at the top.

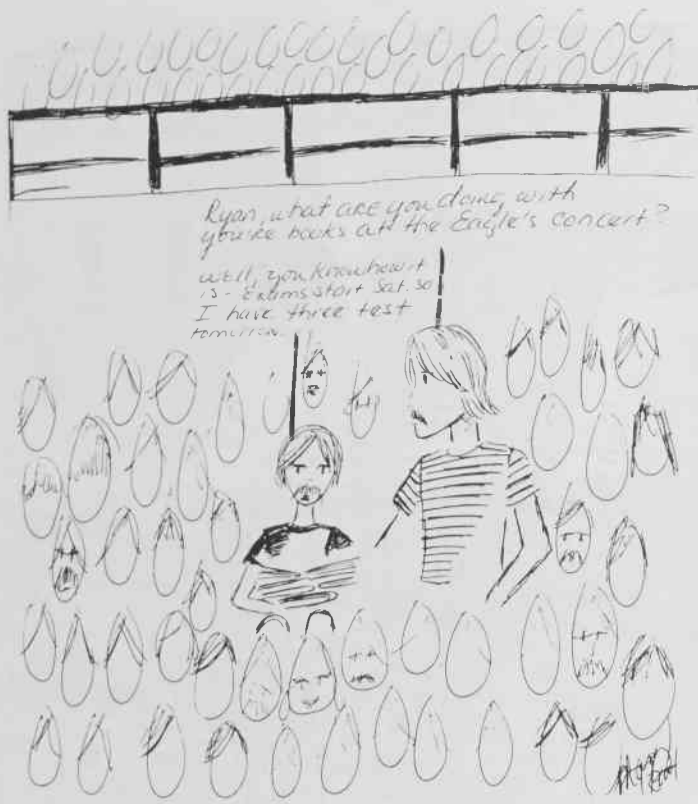
There are three plausible theories to explain why Mr. Nixon is sitting this one out. The first is that he wants Agnew off the administration marquee, but doesn't want to be accused of doing the dirty work himself. The second is that he wants Agnew out, but feels sufficiently weakened by his own Watergate problems so that that he is afraid he doesn't have the clout to lower the ax from the White House. The third is that he feels Agnew's problems have deflected public interest from Watergate, and may in fact last long enough to defuse the Nixon scandal once and for all; so give Spiro enough rope and he will help the boss and hang himself in the process.

All three of those theories have one thread in common: the President wants Agnew out, and is reasonably certain he will be when the dust finally settles.

In my own view, they are alike in yet another way: all three approaches hurt the President, the vice president and the country, because the "hands off" approach Mr. Nixon has chosen only encourage the perpetuation of the leaks, innuendos and slurs against Agnew that Mr. Nixon has so properly condemned, at least in public, but has done little or nothing to stop in private.

The President has spoken on numerous occasions both with his vice president and his attorney general. He has heard both sides of the story, we can assume, in considerable detail. And while it is not the President's right or responsibility to decide the question of Agnew's guilt or innocence, it is his job to decide on the propriety of his vice president continuing in office. If he thinks Agnew should stay, he should say so and support him. If he thinks Agnew should quit, he should ask for his resignation. The man is too close to the presidency to allow him to hang and twist slowly in the wind.

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## How Yule Customs Began

Wouldn't you know it! A gal looking for gold started the Christmas stocking routine.

As legend has it, St. Nicholas gave gold to girls without dowries by dropping it down chimneys. And one enterprising girl hung her stockings in the chimney to make the most of a good deal — the same as millions of young ones do now.

The real St. Nick was a native of Asia Minor and the son of wealthy parents to boot. The legend of St. Nick's generosity spread to Lapland, where Santa got his reindeer and sled.

However, the United States can rightly claim credit for the first picture of Santa as he's known now. Cartoonist Thomas Nast, who also created the Republican elephant and Democratic donkey symbols, is credited with drawing the first picture of the jolly Christmas gent complete with reindeer, sleigh and red suit.

The first Christmas card dates back to England in 1843, according to the latest evidence. Credit for it goes to Sir Henry Cole and John C. Horsley, a lithographer. Another school of historical research designates William Maw Egle, 16-year-old engraver's apprentice, as the Christmas card inventor in 1842.

Both the Cole-Horsley and Egle cards picture scenes of dancing and general merriment and carry holiday greeting messages.

The beautiful carol, "Silent Night," came into being because of rats — indirectly, at any rate. Because rodents had chewed up

the bellows, the organ of a little Austrian church wouldn't work properly. The problem set the priest to searching his mind for special music for Christmas mass. Coming home late the night before Christmas Eve, the sight of the sleeping village in the moonlight gave the inspiration he needed.

He set the words to paper, and his organist, Franz Gruber, caught the spirit of the carol. Father Mohr sang "Silent Night," accompanied by the guitar of Gruber.

One of the oldest of the old saws about Christmas is sure to pop up again this year — "Christmas comes but once a year," that is. It comes from a toast published by Thomas Tusser, who lived in 1523-1580, in his "A Farmer's Daily Diet." It originally read:

"At Christmas play and make good cheer,

For Christmas comes but once a year."

## All in Humor

Dear Mother and Dad:

It has now been three months since I left for college. I have been remiss in writing so I will bring you up to date. Before you read on, please sit down. Okay?

I am getting along pretty well now. The skull fracture and concussion I got when I jumped out of the dormitory window when it caught fire are pretty well healed. I can see almost normally and only get those sick headaches once a day.

Fortunately, the fire in the dorm and my jump were witnessed by a gas station attendant near by, and he called the fire department. He also visited me at the hospital, and since I had nowhere to live he invited me to share his basement room. He is a very fine boy and we are planning to get married. We haven't set the exact date, but it will be before my pregnancy begins to show.

I know how much you are looking forward to being grandparents and I am sure you will give the baby the same love

and devotion you gave me. The reason for the delay in our marriage is that my boy friend has some minor infection which prevents us from passing our pre-marital blood tests, and I carelessly caught it from him. This will soon clear up with the penicillin injections we are taking.

I know you will welcome him into our family with open arms. He is kind, though not well educated. Although he is of a different race and religion, I'm sure your oft-expressed tolerance will not permit you to care that his skin is somewhat darker than ours.

Now that I have brought you up to date, I want to tell you there was no dormitory fire, I was not injured, I am not pregnant, engaged, or suffering from an unmentionable disease.

However, I am getting a "D" in History and an "F" in Science — and I wanted you to see those marks in the proper perspective. Your loving daughter,

## Merry Christmas

THE COLLEGIATE extends to every ACC student, faculty member, and member of the Administration, a joyous Yuletide greeting and a most pleasant hangover following your New Year's Eve party. (From coke and stuff)

## Are We Giving?

Everyone will agree that bums, hangers-on, freeloaders and other leech-like creatures exist in our society. Though they refuse to accept the responsibilities of our society, they receive much in the way of benefits that our society has to offer the individual. These persons are taking a free ride through life — giving nothing — yet reaping much from the society created and perpetuated by others who preserve the principal and pay the interest in applied energy.

Most of us would agree that the presence of this enigma will not soon be dissolved. We would not like this element completely eliminated as it is a by-product of individual freedom of choice. We would not, however, like to see this attitude spread to a point that our present society could not exist because of a lack of persons willing to give of themselves.

Certainly the quality of individuals in our society at present is insurance enough against such a catastrophe. Or is it?

What about us? Which way do we lean? Are we becoming more and more separated from each other? Is there a tendency to be overly concerned for ourselves as persons and negligent towards our obligations as elements in a society which we still call our own?

Many will offer personal excuses or simply refuse when confronted with an opportunity to fulfill the most minor of social obligations. We shake at the thought of committing ourselves to anything or anyone or we accept and never follow through on our obligations.

We must overcome this selfishness if we are to survive. Those who are giving at ACC are giving admirably but they are far from a majority. When they stop giving, who will be there to give? Will someone be there? Examine what is at stake and consider your willingness to take that gamble.

## Rushing Through

The whole semester seems to breeze by at a nice slow pace. There are a few activities and some sports on campus but you still have time to find your own entertainment or event time to sit down and do nothing.

But then about two weeks before exams everyone starts to get in the Christmas spirit. There are Christmas projects and parties for clubs, a concert, basketball and the increasing pressure of the upcoming exams.

Now comes the surprise. You now realize why the pace of the semester was slow. Because the first 15 weeks of the semester you only covered one-half of the material and the last half will have to be covered in the remaining two weeks of classes. But I'm sure this complaint is heard at the end of every semester. Maybe it's their way of making our Christmas vacation at little more relaxing.