

Editorials & Comments

NFL Hypocrisy

Pete Rozelle, Commissioner of the National Football League, has reportedly expressed outrage over part of a book co-authored by Jack Tatum, a defensive back with the Oakland Raiders, who describes himself as an "enforcer" against rival receivers.

Tatum, who admits to using "enforcer" tactics against his opponents, describes his vivid and boastful intent-to-hurt style of play in these words:

"When you hit someone with your best shot and he's still able to think, then you're not a hitter. My idea of a good hit (tackle) is when the victim wakes up on the sidelines with train whistles blowing in his head."

Tatum writes further, "I never make a tackle just to bring someone down. I want to punish the man I'm going after and I want him to know that it's going to hurt everytime he comes my way. I like to believe my best hits border on felonious assault."

In a more graphic and inhumane illustration, one passage in the book describes Tatum's encounter with Riley Odoms, an offensive back with the Denver Broncos. He writes, "It was a perfectly timed hit and I used my hook. I heard Riley scream on impact and felt his body go limp... (and his) eyes rolled back in his head and he wasn't breathing. I had another knockout."

It was in a similar contact situation with Tatum that led to Darryl Stingley's career-ending paralysis in an exhibition game in 1978. Stingley received a relatively little heard about out of court settlement.

Muzzle Tatum

Jack Sands, an attorney representing Stingley, has reportedly urged Commissioner Rozelle to find a way to punish Tatum for his tactics and comments. This led Rozelle to say last week that his office "will not tolerate" the kind of player philosophy expressed by Tatum. Paradoxically, Rozelle's office staff was advising him that any attempts to muzzle Tatum might raise a constitutional question of free speech.

Tatum's reaction to Rozelle's comment was to say, "Rozelle and his people know what goes on, so what can they say?" The truth of Tatum's comment was very evident on Super Bowl XIV last Sunday in Pasadena. Writing in the CHARLOTTE NEWS' "Sports Plus" section (Jan. 21) Ronald Green said when the game was over, "both teams looked like they had been in a street rumble."

He continued, "somebody's blood was spattered across Steeler running back Franco Harris' jersey numbers. Teammate Jack Lambert had a two-

inch swath of flesh from an index finger."

"Steeler receivers Lynn Swann and Theo Bell were foggy from jolts to the head that took them out of the game."

Los Angeles' quarterback Vince Ferragamo had a big raw knot on his jaw.

"Others limped, rubbed bruises and winced when they moved." Big Mean Joe Green of the Steelers illustrates this trism in his Coca-Cola commercial, but soda pop doesn't ease the pain.

Pain-Killing Drug

Furthermore, a recent segment of the hit CBS-TV show "60 Minutes" took a close look at the violence and pain in the National Football League. "60 Minutes" noted that over 70 percent of all players in the league miss at least one game a year in a 16-game schedule due to injuries.

Such injuries are usually quite serious because most players will take some kind of pain-killing drug to allow them to keep playing out of fear of losing their "starting" positions to their replacements. It was noted, too, that the team owners don't really care or concern themselves with player injuries because there is such an abundance of available football talent.

We have noted these rather gruesome details about a play-for-pay sport that really has no concern with the needs or the significance of the individual.

While we don't condone the philosophy of Jack Tatum, we find it a bit hypocritical for Commissioner Rozelle to be concerned about Tatum's philosophy when in fact it was from the NFL that he adopted such a philosophical viewpoint.

Then, too, the NFL is only providing what the screaming fans want to see - brute force on the gridiron. That paradoxical fan who booes if players don't hit hard, laugh when injury is evident and applauds when the hurt player gets up on his own two feet is the real villain in what the NFL has become.

Football also allows the fan to release his aggressive tendencies as he/she is psychologically striking out at all of the frustrations and hurts of their real world situations.

Thus, football is entertainment, a psychological valve and out-and-out violence like the American people want. They call it sports. We call it a license to injure and kill, yet football - NFL

style - will go on and on and on and on. There is definitely a need for some kind of change.

"KU KLUX KLAN RECRUITS CHILDREN"

"In an astonishing tirade, Ku Klux Klan Imperial Wizard Bill Wilkins has openly admitted that he and the Klan are preparing for all out race war in the United States.

Not only is the Klan busy recruiting vulnerable young teen for the cause, its members are also advocating violence, and the use of guns in their organization."

"I know there are lots of people going to throw their hands up in horror, but we don't have to teach our kids to hate Negroes, most of them do that anyhow."

"We're drumming into the youth corps that there are other uses for baseball bats than hitting home runs. We don't teach them to hate blacks, we just teach them that they're superior to blacks."

Jan Warwick
Midnight Globe



Let's Unite

As I See It

War Is The Answer?

By Gerald O. Johnson
Post Columnist

"War, what is it good for...absolutely nothing." This was a popular tune in the late 60's by Edwin Starr. It was a song that I sang louder than most because at the time, I was draftable. I had a lottery number of 19 and alphabet of 1.

Today, however, I see things a little differently, partly because I am no longer draftable, mostly because of recent observations. Hence, I've changed the lyrics of the tune to "War, what is it good for...Democracy."

In reality democracy is a poor peace time ideology to live by. It seems that during times of peace we all dance to different drummers. You have pro-abortionists and anti-abortionists; pro-nukes and anti-nukes; pro-labor and anti-labor; pro-Anita Bryant and anti-Anita Bryant; the list goes on. The problem stems from people wanting their beliefs thrust down the throats of everyone else. A democracy allows this to take place openly and frequently.

Eventually, things get out of control. Leadership is lacking and the democratic process goes to pot. With all the different factions threatening the existence of democracy, it stands to reason that something is needed to focus attention away from individual greed and toward greed to benefit the whole. War is the answer. The war must be one where we are



Gerald O. Johnson fighting an aggressor. The Vietnam war didn't count because it appeared to be a civil war and we were caught meddling.

But now we have all the ingredients for WW III. The commies are pushing their way across Europe. We have hostages being kept in Iran. The economy is at a low point and we are suffering from double digit inflation. What a time for a war. We could really use it.

Never before in recent history has a president had such strong support. We are beginning to show signs of patriotism once again. Just the thought of war has caused the stock market to post record volumes. The congress has overwhelmingly vetoed the "SALT TREATY". The long awaited recession is beginning to show signs of retreating.

We are (as a people) beginning to think and act as one. We are, finally, showing progress.

It's odd that a country that talks of peace can only thrive on war. It's not only

odd but it's also sad. Who's Gonna Fight?

How can you convince an eighteen year old that has a car, a girlfriend, and living comfortably to risk his life for his country? You can't. Wars are won by those people willing to die for what they believe in. This is why we won the Revolutionary War, WW I, and WW II. This is why we didn't win in Vietnam.

The same would be true if WW III starts. If we fight in this war we had better be certain there is a valid reason. History has proven that as a country we do our best fighting when we have been directly threatened. The bombing of Pearl Harbor, the sinking of the Titanic, taxation without representation were all direct threats against the country. We fought and died in the wars associated with these incidents. It would take a similar incident to stir our emotions enough to want to fight and possibly die for our country.

Russia invading Afghanistan has not reached that point where people are willing to risk their lives to fight.

Household Products

Medicines and household products and poisons must be kept out of a child's reach. Some poisons may not be obvious, such as lead-base paints. Look for the term "nontoxic" when buying paints. Watch for other safety labels as well, such as "flame resistant" and "hygienic materials."

From Capitol Hill

Republicans Appear Headed For White Supremacy?

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

The Republican Party chaired by Senator John Towers of Texas has begun holding hearings for the purpose of affecting a party platform. These are being held in; Washington, St. Petersburg, Los Angeles, Indianapolis, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Davenport, Seattle, Chicago and New York. The first three-day meeting has been held in Washington with the concluding one in New York in June.

Among the list of witnesses in Washington there appeared no names of blacks. The hearing plan states that testimony will be given by concerned citizens, representatives of national organizations, the academic community and elected officials.

Practically, all of the witnesses strongly emphasized decentralization of power and giving just about complete control to the states. It appears a complete resurrection of the old states' rights policy. The witnesses stated that the programs which affect the citizens' lives must



Alfreda L. Madison have state and local control. Blacks can't expect equity treatment from the states. It just seems a concerted effort by the Republicans to return to the pre-fifty and sixty days.

A great defense raise was strongly supported, and a hold down of government spending for social programs.

Senator Paul Laxalt of Nevada who along with Jake Garns of Utah, two of the most staunch conservatives on Capitol Hill, said that if congress fails to balance the budget, the

party should support a constitutional amendment to do so.

The witnesses recommended removal of government regulations on the oil companies for more research and production. There must be a tax indexing which will free the private sector to increase jobs.

James Buckley who, until two years ago was the senator from New York, and is now running for the senate from Connecticut talked strongly against a Washington centralized government. He spoke of the restoration of an authentic federalism which gives the states great powers.

Senator Javits of New York who has been considered as a liberal and said we must continue our bipartisan support of President Carter in the Iran and Afghanistan questions, and that the Republic aim should be for the United States, together with its Western European allies and perhaps Japan must control the Persian Gulf trade routes. When asked by Congressman Lott of

Mississippi, if this meant controlling the small countries in the area too, Senator Javits replied that such is a future aim. When we asked the Senator if his statement didn't give credence to Russia and Iran's accusation that the United States is embarking on an imperialistic course, he said that such control in the

Persian Gulf area was necessary since we are the world's greatest produc-

John Elliott Announces For School Board

John W. Elliott, Jr., director of Johnson C. Smith University's Upward Bound and Special Services Program has filed to become a candidate in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board Election.

Elliott's key motto is "Educational Excellence through Harmony."

He believes his background experience complements his ability to serve as a worthy member. Elliott, 33, 2000 Patio Court, is a Philadelphia native and a 1972 graduate of Johnson C. Smith. He has held his present position since 1977. His



TO BE EQUAL Welfare System

Is In Need Of Reform

A modest welfare reform bill has finally passed the House of Representatives, and the battleground now shifts to the Senate, where efforts at reforming a welfare system everyone agrees is a mess will run into stiff challenge.

The House bill falls far short of real reform. But it does establish a national minimum payment which would raise benefits in about fifteen states. The proposed minimum benefit would be less than two-thirds of the poverty level.

Less important to the poor, but of great consequence to Congressmen running for re-election this year, the bill also provides some fiscal relief for the states.

But the knives are out in the Senate. Some senators support a different kind of "reform"—turning the federal welfare program over to the states in the form of block grants.

That would make the present mess even more unworkable and devastating to the poor. Welfare is a national problem that needs to be resolved on a national basis.

There is already too much state control of the program, with the result that no state provides benefits equal to the poverty line while many keep recipients on shamefully low benefit schedules.

The reluctance to reform the system reflects widespread hostility to the poor, a hostility encouraged by racism. Welfare is seen as a "black program" notwithstanding that half of all recipients are white.

It is widely scorned as a program that rewards not working, despite the fact that most recipients are incapable of work. And with unemployment levels consistently around the seven million mark throughout the past several year, many people still look to a work requirement for welfare as being something rational.

The House bill that faces an uncertain future in the Senate ought to become law, if only because it represents an incremental change for the better, but also because it establishes a long-sought goal of reform—establishment of a national minimum benefit.

But it can only be a way station on the road toward total overhaul of the welfare system.

An alternative to the present system ought to have several guiding principles, including universal benefits, federal administration, a national minimum benefit, administrative simplicity, and removal of any stigma attached to receiving aid.

The best way to achieve such a system would be through a refundable credit income tax. Everyone would get a basic grant in the form of a refundable tax credit.

That credit would be taxed away from those whose income exceeds a certain level. For those below that level, the credit would constitute an income maintenance program.

In fact such a system is already in existence on a small scale, through the tax credit available to the working poor. That's been on the books for several years now, and has provided modest benefits without cumbersome administrative mechanisms or stigmatizing recipients.

ers. In response to a statement that the African countries would view his prescribed actions as a white supremacist racist policy, since no Third World countries were included, Mr. Javits said, "they can take part if they desire to do so." However, there was no mention of asking their participation.

Senator Javits said, questions will be raised whether the Andrew Young

school of thought on attitudes toward the developing countries of the Third World best meets U.S. national interests and whether better policies can be shaped to meet our interests.

All witnesses' testimony, in reference to framing the Republican platform, irrespective of the section of the country represented, sounded like the old pre-civil war South.

representative to the

Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunities Program Personnel, member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Outstanding Young Man of America, 1976; and Academic Advisor to the JCSU basketball team.

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