

Editorials

Terrorism- The No Win War Athletics:

"At one point a man sat beside me who had been beaten. He was bleeding from a head wound... Later, one of them hit him in the head again with a gun barrel... I don't know when I realized one passenger had been killed. I heard only one shot fired... After... I saw a young black man walk down the aisle... His arm was broken and he was in pain." These traumatic words were uttered by Ann Summers, a black 32 year old sales representative for USA Today newspaper, and a now freed hostage from TWA Flight 847.

The Boeing 727 jet with a full 145 passengers was commandeered by a band of Shiite Moslems in mid-air and forced into a flight of tension and terror 8,300 miles across the Mediterranean Sea on June 14, 1985. Such an event is an act of international terrorism, something from which there is no protection, nor defense against.

While 105 of the hostages were eventually freed, 40 American men, including the flight crew, have been detained and are now in their 14th day of captivity. The terrorists claim that they will release the 40 Americans only if and when Israel frees 766 predominantly Shiite Moslem prisoners from Lebanon.

Numerous and more frequent acts of international terrorism have and are occurring and there is no fail-safe way to prevent it. Terrorists don't respect or operate within international law, they may range from single individual to a small army, they may be the agents of a government used as a strike force, and they all appear to be anti-American. Most tragically, of course, is that when terrorists take innocent civilians as hostages, governments are almost powerless to do anything of an aggressive nature out of fear the

hostages will be harmed or killed.

Unfortunately, too, in America, hostage crises have been used as a partisan political issue. During the Iranian hostage crisis in 1980 then presidential candidate Ronald Reagan was critical of President Jimmy Carter for not taking forceful action to free the American hostages. Now, President Reagan finds himself likewise unable to take any forceful action without endangering the lives of those in captivity.

Politics has led many in the Reagan administration, including the President himself, to be very critical of the news media by saying that wide publicity of the hostage situation feeds the ego of the terrorists. We sharply disagree because if wide publicity is not evident, governments, including our own, are less likely to press as hard to find reasonably quick solutions to freeing the hostages. It is for this reason we believe that some people allege that there are at least seven American hostages who have been in captivity in Iran for a long length of time and others who believe that there are still American prisoners in South Vietnam.

Former American Ambassador to the United Nations, Donald McHenry, has given a clear perspective on this latest hostage crisis for America when he said, "I think the major lesson we should have learned from the Iranian hostage crisis is patience, followed by a recognition that rash actions are unlikely to result in any favorable outcome... you cannot conduct negotiations until there is authority which is responsible enough to carry out those negotiations." At this time such responsible authority clearly does not exist. Let us hope and pray for the safety and welfare of the hostages and that somehow by the grace of God the entire nightmare will come to a quick ending.

Crisis Or New Beginning?

Last week 198 college and university chief administrators met in New Orleans and passed an unprecedented number of legislative measures against NCAA rules violators be they coaches, athletic directors, or student-athletes.

Among the proposals passed at the NCAA special convention were requirements that participating schools conduct self-studies of their athletic departments every five years, report on the academic status of incoming freshmen, control and administer athletic budgets, conduct outside audits of athletic programs annually, provide penalties for coaches and athletes who break rules, and require signed affidavits by student-athletes and coaches disclosing financial assistance and athletically related benefits to be received.

Unfortunately, a close look at all this rules tightening in collegiate sports appears

to place a disproportionate burden on the student-athlete. After all, a very high percentage of these youth are black who come from inner-city high schools that have inadequately prepared them for college academic life and from whom collegiate sports programs generate mega bucks - millions of dollars - yearly. For example, Notre Dame earns \$16 million in football and \$3.2 million in basketball yearly. Likewise the University of Michigan earns, respectively, \$13 million and \$3 million. In coaches' income the Texas A&M head football mentor earns a total of \$267,000 including \$95,000 in salary annually. The head basketball coach at Kentucky earns \$285,000 including a \$65,000 in salary annually. On the other hand an 18 to 21 year old kid, usually black, can only hope to get a meager four-year scholarship if he can cope with the combined pressures of athletics and academics in that order. This is not justice.

From Capitol Hill

President Must Withdraw Reynolds' Nomination

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

William Bradford Reynolds, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, has been nominated by President Reagan for a promotion to Associated Attorney General. Reynolds' nomination is opposed by more than 50 civil rights groups.

After appearing for a day and a half before the Senate Judiciary Committee for confirmation, Mr. Reynolds was called back later because he was accused by some Democrats and Republicans and some of the civil rights organizations of giving false information to the committee.

The Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights very quickly fired off to the members of the committee, in response to Reynolds' misstatements. The Attorney General said in his first day's testimony that this Administration has always been against tax exemptions for schools that discriminate - that his only concern was that legislation was needed to clarify authority of the IRS to withhold exemptions. So the Administration submitted corrective legislation, authorizing denial of exemptions. The Lawyers Committee states that in September 1981, the Department of Justice had filed a brief with the Supreme Court, urging it to review the Bob Jones case to clarify IRS authority to withhold tax credit. Four months later, the Justice Department asked the Treasury Department to grant Bob Jones University an exemption. Concurrently to the Treasury request, the Justice Department filed a second memorandum with the Supreme Court, urging it not to review the Bob Jones case. It was not until 10 days later after such a



Alfreda

great public outcry against the Administration's actions of reversing an 11-year policy, that legislation was proposed. The Lawyers Committee stated, "Against this background, it is difficult at best to credit Mr. Reynolds' claim that the Administration has always advocated, as a matter of policy, denial of tax exempt status to educational institutions with racially discriminatory policies." The Lawyers Committee attacked Reynolds' explanation of the Stotts Memphis Firefighters case on which he bases his assaults on affirmative cases that have long been settled with consent decrees. While Reynolds told the Judiciary that Stotts ruled out the previous consent decrees and that race cannot be taken into consideration in deciding remedies, the Lawyers Committee proved conclusively that Stotts decided only one thing, and that seniority must be taken into account when layoffs are concerned - it purely stated that race consciousness can be considered in remedies for correcting discriminatory practices. The lawyers stated in their response that all of the seven

cases that Reynolds has brought to overturn the consent decrees have been decided against him and that the decrees have been upheld.

The Birmingham case where black children were promoted under a consent decree, and the Justice Department was a signatory to the decree. Later white policemen filed a lawsuit claiming reverse discrimination. The Justice Department intervened in the case, but did not officially take the side until this year. It is, legally, required to defend the Consent Decree from attack. The Department informed the Courts that it is investigating the white policemen's claim and if they were true it would join the white police. It was learned that the Justice Department has used FBI confidential files to uncover derogatory information about some of the blacks and that this information was given to lawyers for the whites. Reynolds said that he had no knowledge of this action. Mary Mann, a lawyer in the Justice Department, stated that she secured the FBI files by making a telephone call without Reynolds' knowledge and that the information was given to lawyers for both sides. Lawyers for the blacks said that they never received the information, even though they had been requesting it since November. It was only after the first hearing they were allowed to see the information in the office.

Reynolds' statements on filing cases on Voting Rights violations were refuted. He stated that he filed 26 lawsuits. Frank Parker of the Lawyers Committee said that Reynolds had only filed 10 and intervened in nine for the purpose of defending the constitutionality of Section 2 and not to litigate their

merits. While Reynolds stated that he talked with lawyers for both sides in several Voting Rights violations, it was proved that he did not. Reynolds blamed this mistake on faulty memory and the many cases that he was allegedly involved in.

Senator Specter, in asking Reynolds about a conversation he had with him in 1983 about a Voting Rights case, said, "Wasn't your response to me deceptive?" Reynolds replied, "Senator, I apologize if I gave you that impression. It was just that the case was in litigation. I felt that I should not discuss it."

Senator Simon had questioned Reynolds about a large number of the civil rights lawyers' resignations because they differed from Reynolds' civil rights enforcement policies. Reynolds said that several had resigned, but not because of policy differences, but for better jobs or other reasons. At the second hearing, five affidavits were presented which showed that they resigned because of policy differences, and these were made known to Reynolds at the time of their resignations.

Originally, Reynolds had told Senator Kennedy that he had kept no record of conversations on certain cases. However at 5:45, the day before the second hearing, Reynolds sent to the Senator records on these cases.

President Reagan has pulled out all the stops in lobbying certain senators to get Reynolds confirmed, but at present the nomination is in trouble.

Reynolds was supposed to have been voted on by the Judiciary Committee on June 20, but because his nomination is in trouble, it has been postponed for a week.

BE A PART OF THE NEW AWARENESS



News Of Terrorism Must Be Reported!

One of the big debates now is the effect the media has on terrorism. Many argue that the media exploits the acts, thus encouraging the terrorists to be more aggressive. Other argue that the media preys on the grief of the hostages' families to increase revenues and audiences.

Former Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, feels the media should stop carrying news about terrorist incidents. He views terrorists as being cynical and use the media to transmit their demands.

Journalists know that terrorists try to use the news media for their own purpose and benefit. As a result of that, journalists have been increasingly careful in crisis reporting - such as the present situation - to report the facts with care and certain restraints. An example of such reporting is that the media has not and did not report sensitive military information during the TWA hijacking, as asked by the Administration. They also handled all the unconfirmed reports of behind-the-scenes negotiations responsibly and prevented the spread of true and false rumors.



Sabrina

Frankly speaking, when terrorism strikes, journalists tow a fine and fragile line.

The media must report the facts but not help the terrorists meet their demands or voice them. They must not invade the private lives of the hostages' families but the news of a Navy man's funeral, who was brutally murdered by the terrorists, must be reported to the public.

Reports of hostages' families have made public that the families rely and take comfort in the media coverage of the TWA event. It allows them to voice their opinions, frustrations and views for a safe return.

Others strike out against the invasion of privacy and personal despair.

Is there an alternative to careful, responsible reporting? No. There just would be no news. A columnist recently wrote that the United States government should impose or use its emergency power and order the media not to report on the crisis until it is over. Is this the United States of America or the USSR? And if this did occur, what would the families do and where would the U.S. be? In the dark?

The United States is a free society. It would not be if an order was enacted to suspend coverage. If so the citizens of this country would be on the same boat as the Soviet counterparts who know nothing or very little about the war the USSR conducts in Afghanistan.

The purpose of the media is to report facts. How they are interpreted is personal opinion and information acquired. Technology has made communication instantly accessible all over the world. The media of today has a personal and professional commitment to use restraints, when necessary, and act and react reasonably and responsibly. News media must be on its toes if the TWA crisis continues - otherwise the truth and reasons will be locked within the walls of TWA Flight 847.

The public concern is of the families of the hostages - what about the hostages themselves? The hostages need the media to keep the public aware of their plight. Without public and government awareness in a hostage situation, the hostages fear the Administration will lose its incentive to keep the public abreast of the situation. Without the media reporting, the crisis would be lost behind the shield of governmental silence.

Knowing that the public and one's family know little or nothing about the current events in a hostage situation can or will be destructive for the hostages themselves. The President spoke of renewed patriotism among Americans during the election - without the press patriotism among the hostages would be lost. How can one in conflict keep believing in one's nation if the nation does not support him? It is difficult to remain rah-rah when the home team is saying "So what."

Charlotteans rallied in a concentrated, one-day support and plea of freedom for the hostages.

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