

Other Editors

HERTFORD COUNTY HERALD

Could Fat Back Be Next?

Comment has been recently concerning world population explosion and plans for a possible local birth control clinic. The clinic has been something people can be for when it comes to the population growth problem. But until now, unfortunately, the battle has lacked something — there's been nothing to be against.

This week Bill Rogister, assistant

county extension chairman (the new \$64 title for county agents), provided us with a missing quantity. He found us a villain. No fight worthy the name should lack an enemy. Now when we talk of population growth we can all really dig into the discussion. At last we have something to be against.

Bill's enemy was found in the following editorial from the Wash-

ington, D. C. Post:

"THE POTATO A VILLAIN"

This is a suspicious age and when we are not smelling out subversives in one place, we scent villains in another. The latest culprit is the homely potato which is being charged by Prof. William Langer with at least partial responsibility for the population explosion. Potatoes have insured adequate food supplies in many parts of the world, Professor Langer explains, and when people are well fed — well, they multiply. In Sweden, he insists, the population curve rises sharply after every large potato harvest.

On the surface the potato appears to be too innocent to provoke such fundamental changes in a people, but appearances are deceiving and one should not be lulled by blandness. From the first our ancestors suspected the potato. When Sir Walter Raleigh's exploring captains brought potatoes to England, they

whispered that this new product from America was a powerful aphrodisiac. Soon half the country gentlemen of England were carefully tending potato patches. Virtuous maids were warned against eating them, and the Virgin Queen was said to look upon the new crop with distaste and suspicion. If medical science has disproved the qualities attributed to the potato by the Elizabethans, agricultural economists have show that it has an importance hitherto undreamed of. And now Professor Langer has correlated it significantly with the population's growth. The boarding

house plea: "pass the potatoes" has, at last, lost its innocent accent.

The Washington Post was being facetious, of course. But for those who must have something to be against before they can be for, it's just possible a potato could serve. Only improvement we can think of is that for those so included sweet potatoes would be better to hate than the white kind. Not only can the sweet ones be charged with causing the population explosion — they're red as well. If sweet potatoes are already communists can chitterlings be far behind?

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BOSTON HERALD

Criminal and Ordinary Citizens

"Our criminal convictions are constantly being reversed on technicalities — not on the evidence. The police are frustrated.

"The criminal is being afforded more legal protection than the ordinary citizen. I often wonder who, besides the police, is concerned about the rights of citizens to be free from attack by criminals." — Police Chief Robert W. Murray of District of Columbia, in an interview with U. S. News and World Report.

Here is a statement that will be widely endorsed among policemen. But it suffers a fatal defect of logic. It expresses concern for the "ordinary citizen" yet ignores the face that the "ordinary citizen" — the person innocent of any crime — is the very one whose security the "technicalities" are designed to insure.

Society safeguards innocent citizens from abuses of the police power through these "technicalities." It excludes illegally obtained evidence from a criminal trial not to favor the accused but to discourage the police from obtaining evidence by means which injure innocent persons.

It is the "ordinary citizen" who is victimized when the police make an unwarranted arrest, as in the recent case of Folksinger Jackie Washington here in Boston.

It is the "ordinary citizen" whose privacy is invaded when police engaged in a fruitless search of his home or automobile with neither court sanction nor probable cause.

It is the "ordinary citizen" who suffers when induced by coercive police interrogation into giving a false confession.

Chief Murray implies that the

police are capable of distinguishing between a "criminal" and an "ordinary citizen."

But they are not; nor is it their function to try. The determination of guilt is the function of judges and juries.

The function of the police is to enforce the law without breaking the law. It proves frustrating, then that is the price of a free society.



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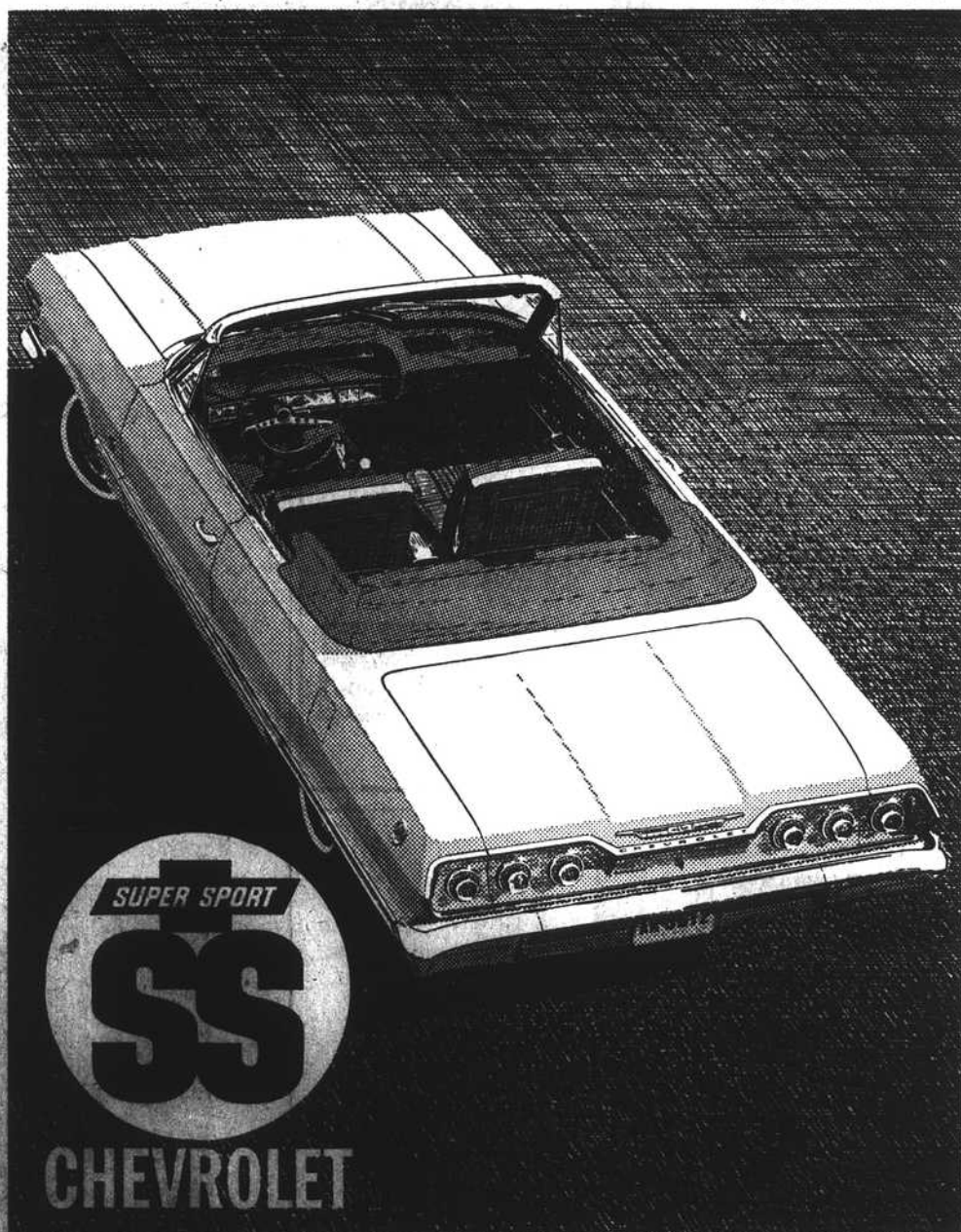
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