

'Oh, Mr. Johnson...!'



EDITORIALS

Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinion Of One Man
And He May Be Wrong

On Cutting Off Water

The admiral in charge has cut the water pipe between Guantanamo Naval Base and Cuba proper, which is some kind of exercise in futility. Dear Old Fidel had cut the water off long before the admiral sawed the pipe in two.

But with a dirty rascal like Fidel tending the water hole we'd prefer to drink bourbon or some other liquid since such a character might throw a dead chicken in the water supply each morning just to give it a little character.

For generations Americans have been told how to fortify this Guantanamo was and now we find it doesn't even have a water supply of its own.

Of course, the instantaneous pocketbook of old John Q. Taxpayer can cure all miseries including the inability to make water, and an estimated \$10 million dollars will be spent to distill sea water for the Marines

and Sailors who man these distant ram-parts.

Defense Secretary McNamara says our ballistic missiles are accurate and for years we have been told that they are very powerful so actually there is very little need for such hangovers from another military era.

We are stubborn and American enough to absolutely refuse to surrender such bases to such pigs as Fidel but aside from providing occasional international incidents and a warm place for old admirals to spend the winter this acreage is more of a liability than an asset.

We might sublet it to the Russians as a base for their "fishing fleet" and save the Russians the expense of building their own submarine pens in Cuba. But we'd prefer to collect the lease money in advance and not lend Nikita the money to swing the deal as we are doing in the wheat disposal deal.

On Military Costs

Not an inconsiderable part of the waste that goes on in the name of our armed forces is that of supporting the families of military men in foreign countries. Added to this is the mountainous cost of taking these families to and bringing them home again.

As an ex-GI who spent the best part of three years over seas without benefit of family, we assert that a faster rotation system for overseas personnel would be far cheaper in dollars and cents and would likely result in less "incidents" in those hundreds of places all over the world where our armed forces are located today.

In the era prior to World War II the

only military personnel permitted to haul their families around were the officer class, and at that time the ratio of officers to enlisted men was far lower than it is in the modern armed forces.

But present policy permits every buck private to take his entire family wherever and whenever he is asked to spend a few months beyond the limits of these shores.

The total cost of such an operation is fantastic and absolutely unnecessary. It is just one more of the huge chunks of fat that have been added to the mountainous military budget and it ought to be trimmed off immediately.

What Warren Said

Judge Earl Warren some weeks ago stated categorically that there were some facts being turned up in the investigation of the murder of President Kennedy by one of his fellow left wingers that might not be released in the lifetime of the reporters to whom he was talking.

This seems to be in direct contradiction to the promise made to the world by President Johnson when he appointed the investigating committee. He said that every possible effort would be made to uncover every fact in the tragic event and that when this had been done the complete and full findings would be made public.

Warren, hiding behind the typical Washington excuse of national security, infers

that something his committee has learned might upset national security if it were made public. We assert that any fact known to Earl Warren can be trusted to any citizen of this land, because, on the repeated record, the average one of us loves, protects and defends the basic principle of our government more constantly and in more ways than this sociologist in jurist robes.

We do not suspect for one minute that President Johnson will override Warren, but he has promised fullest release of all information uncovered, and now the chairman of the committee he appointed has said no such thing is likely to happen.

The worst thing about an irresponsible statement such as Warren's is that it flings

The Ruby Trial

Not for a hundred years has so bizarre an event unfolded in a court of law in these United States as the trial of Jack Ruby in Dallas which got underway this week.

Not since the alleged conspirators in the murder of President Lincoln were hurried off to silent graves has a court room seen the likes of the Ruby trial.

There, of course, is no doubt that Ruby murdered Lee Oswald, and that the act was one of premeditation. The only question there can be before any jury that may finally be seated is whether Ruby was temporarily insane at the time he planned and executed this assassination of an assassin.

Unfortunately there is not much precedence in our law for such crimes of national passion. Certainly, no one can deny that the entire nation was in a severe state of shock at the time Ruby pulled the trigger on Oswald.

The news media had so thoroughly dosed the entire nation with the terrible monstrosity of Oswald's crime; a misfit who had murdered a young man of great stature for no apparent reason other than that he opposed the political system of which President Kennedy was the head.

That this same young man had also attempted to murder a soldier-politician of the extreme opposite political persuasion from President Kennedy accents the possibility that in the warped mind of Oswald this country's drift toward state socialism was not proceeding rapidly enough so he created in his limited mind an obsession against anyone who stood for the status quo in government.

So with all of this current of venom openly running against Oswald, encouraged by Oswald's own arrogance it surely is not too much to suppose that an emotional man may have lost his reason and decided that killing an Oswald was an act of divine justice. It certainly deprived Oswald of his fondest dream; that of front-stage center in a court where he could beat his breast and enjoy his fleeting hour of infamy.

The Ruby jury has a hard decision to make and it will not be a popular one, no matter what it is.

We'd dearly love to hear from any federal official who thinks he has a good reason for families of military men being present in such danger spots as Viet Nam, Cyprus, The Congo, Zanzibar, Ethiopia, Uganda, Ghana; to mention just a beginning few.

Converting the old post office in Kinston into a so-called branch library of the main library which is only four blocks away is expected to cost from \$50,000 to \$75,000; but the most expensive price tag attached to this misguided project is that it will quite possibly delay for the foreseeable future the construction of a really adequate library to serve the county.

Under our law it is impossible to bring back the wench from prison who beat an aged Duplin County woman store keeper into a bloody pulp to rob her of less than a hundred dollars. That particular wench is serving a short term for the assault and robbery, but now the aged woman has died, never having recovered from the beating she suffered. Such things as this are the best argument we can think of for a hell after death.

wide the gates of conjecture, and permits the venal gossip with which Washington is more than overstocked to ply its trade without restriction.

Covering up facts in such a monstrous affair is much more a threat to our national security than releasing the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth about what really did happen in Dallas last November.

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PERSONAL

PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

The assortment of nuts who are belaboring tobacco are a much worse threat to the nation's well being than tobacco ever has been or will be. All of the faddists, health club queers, yogurt drinking, carrot juice types have lined up their BB guns on old Demon Nicotina.

There was a time when the intellectual ancestors of this assortment of nuts peppered the nation with pellets on the subject of Demon Rum until a besodden congress and a tired public voted in something called Prohibition. This dropped law and order and respect for the law to the lowest point in the history of these none-too-lawful United States.

Tobacco is a rather foolish habit, but hundreds of millions of people in every part of the world use it and enjoy it. For everyone that it sends to an early grave there are thousands for whom it makes life more pleasant.

Now if use of tobacco was like fluoridation of the water supply that would be one thing, but to belabor tobacco when it is one of societies electives is stretching the absurd even to the breaking point. Nobody has to smoke, chew, dip or sniff tobacco. Each of us can take it or leave it alone. If these health faddists don't want to use tobacco there is no law forbidding their abstinence.

One of the more serious, but equally absurd opponents of tobacco is the good gray lady of Boston called the Christian Science Monitor. This same paper is opposed to compulsory medication in such methods as water fluoridation, but it supports compulsory eradication of such items as whisky and tobacco. There are other less respectable nuts who would make the eating of meat illegal. And I support there are even organizations who opposed to the eating of vegetables — such outfits as the National Meat Institute, no doubt.

One evil, suspicious-minded friend of mine between puffs of his favorite cancer causative last week informed me that the entire propaganda blast at tobacco was a scheme to rig the stockmarket so that a handful of people could make a few hundred million dollars. By depressing the tobacco shares as far as possible the smart boys would buy in, and then come up with the astounding news that really, after all tobacco does not cause cancer.

This same kind of iniquitous skull duggery hit the ancient art of distilling and during those 18 years sometimes called the "great drought" the smart boys bought in, and bought out so that now the control of the nation's whisky making business is nearly as tight a monopoly as the cigaret-making trade. My friend suggests that this is no accident but a deliberate plan, on the part of a handful of people to profit from the hysteria being kicked up about tobacco by an irresponsible collection of cat's paws.

This kind of reasoning makes just as much sense as the case that has been made against tobacco in the realm of cancer, not an infinitesimal few; and then, pray tell, what gives cancer to the non-tobacco user?

Tobacco and whisky and milk and carrots and all of nature's gifts to an unthankful mankind are bad medicine if they are used intemperately. This is not news, of course, because reasonable people have known this for as long as there have been reasonable people. It merely happens that at this day and date in history the unreasonable people seem to have control of the major media of communications and they are frightening the world on all fronts with a wild collection of "threats."

Radioactivity, herbicides, insecticides, hydrocarbons, detergents, tobacco, and of course, whisky are among those things that are scheduled to destroy humanity in just a few more ticks of the clock.

As the man said about the types who were building fallout shelters. "If these are to be the survivors, I don't specially care about surviving."