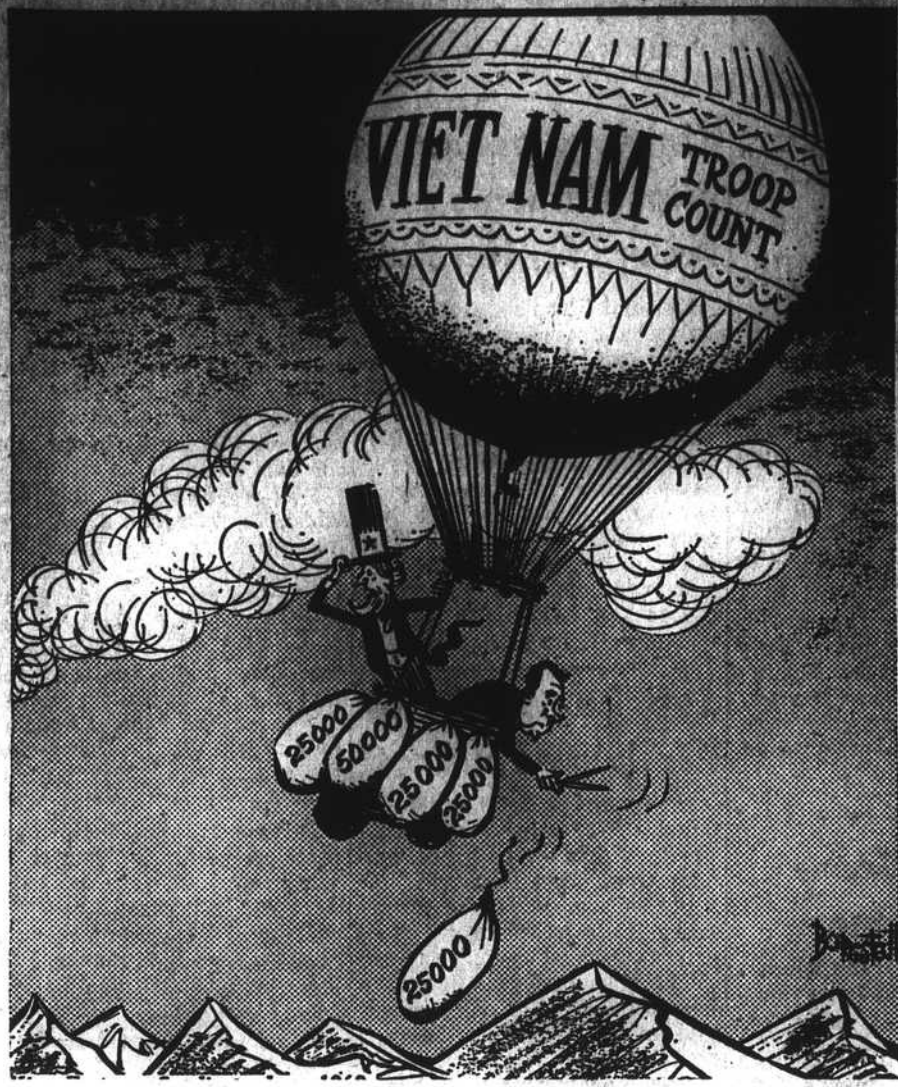


'The sooner you cut 'em loose the better!'



## EDITORIALS

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

### The Cosa Nostra

Most of us in smalltown America feel that we are beyond the reach of organized crime. Nothing could be less true because the cost of crime dips into the pocket of every American no matter where he lives.

The extortion, hijacking, official corruption and equally fixed gambling that one too easily associates with the big cities also reach into the tiniest hamlet.

This summer we have seen how nervous the commissioners of professional football and baseball can become over any relationship any of its membership may have with organized crime; and well they may be.

The great White Sox Scandal in baseball more than a half-century ago left an ugly scar on baseball that is still very well remembered by all who love the game.

More recently a series of basketball "fixes" has ruined the careers of greedy young men who swapped their integrity for a sorry mess of criminal potage.

Until now football — which is by far the easiest game to fix — has escaped exposure, but it is too much to expect that the hot breath of this same kind of greed has not been felt in this sport, and especially at the professional level.

Nobody can know whether a coach is calling the best play for a given situation, or that a quarterback is throwing passes just beyond the reach of his receivers, or that a receiver slows down just enough not to be within reach of a pass. A crucial fumble may be a terrible accident or a serious crime. Nobody can possibly know except the individual involved.

Faking in baseball or basketball is far more difficult than in football.

All of which makes it an utter necessity that everyone connected with the sport keep themselves in the position of Caesar's wife.

That is all that has been asked of Joe Namath, but he thinks he is good enough to thumb his nose at the profession that has made him a millionaire.

Namath is very likely to learn that those who made him can also break him and when this is done his shady associates will throw him aside like a wet cigar butt, and he'll deserve it, too.

### To Be Expected

Some people in very high places are shocked to the delicate ends of their manicured cuticles because there is accumulating a mass of evidence to support the premise that some doctors are thieves.

There are thieves in every occupational group, and doctors never have been any exception to this ugly fact of life.

But when the federal government opened the taxpayer's treasury to the doctors with socialized medicine it was very quickly learned how a small per cent of doctors could give all the rest a very bad name.

A recent North Carolina candidate for governor, Dentist Reginald Hawkins of Charlotte, still stands accused of gypping the taxpayers out of a very large slice of money for work he was supposed to have done on poverty stricken children.

A current investigation in California indicates that this medical thievery is

### The Rocky Road

Nelson Rockefeller has now travelled The Rocky Road to not-much Latin American romance and neither he nor the nation nor any of the countries he has visited has benefited.

First, and perhaps last: If permanent U. S. embassies and over-sized staffs in all of these countries cannot supply the president with information on the needs and the overall political situations in their respective countries no single man, however brilliant, can do the job on such a whirlwind basis.

Personal diplomacy has never been very successful and in South America it has been disastrous.

For a long time United States politicians have exhibited a misguided paternalism toward everything "South of the Border". Some guilt complex has stirred them to "help" our poor neighbors in Central and South America.

The absurdity of this noble effort is reflected in the fact that Central and South America enjoy an abundance of natural resources that in most senses equal and in many instances surpass those of our own end of the western hemisphere.

They have oil, iron, limitless water power, fertile soil and manpower.

They lack political stability and without political stability it is impossible to intelligently exploit the good things they have in such rich abundance.

And no amount of North American prayer or money is going to suddenly change this situation.

First there are too many countries. Second there is too little transportation. Great plenty in one corner of a nation and starvation in another are a reflection on this lack of roads, railroads and utilization of available waterways.

The United States neither has the power nor the duty to attempt to do for people what they will not do for themselves. Brazil has 3,286,647 square miles compared to 3,615,211 for the United States and that includes 586,400 square miles in Alaska. Brazil's population is just 81,301,000 compared to more than 200 million in the United States and Brazil has more natural resources than the United States.

in the millions of dollars.

And how is this possible?

It came about in this simple fashion: Some noble practitioner of the medical art sitting behind a desk in Washington decided that it would be improper to fix fees, and the taxpayers wound up with a "guideline" (oh hated word) which permitted doctors to charge "reasonable fees." Which is about like permitting lawyers to specify their fees for particular jobs, after the job is completed, and never before.

Obviously a fee that is reasonable to one doctor might be exorbitant to another. Even between honorable doctors there is room for debate on this difficult point.

But then when the natural thieves of the medical trade move in the time for debate ends because they not only charge fees that are far out of line, but they also file for fees for work they have not done on patients they have not seen.

And when a situation ties an unscrupulous doctor to an equally larcenous druggist the gutter is the limit. So now we shall have to have another set of regulations which honest doctors will not like and dishonest doctors will find ways around.

### PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY  
JACK RIDER

It's funny how an inexact choice of word or phrase changes the entire sense of what one is trying to say. Such an instance happened week before last in a brief note I had about a Kinstonian being turned loose on a technicality after once being convicted of possessing marijuana.

To close that item I added this paragraph: "Speight's court-appointed lawyer, Harvey Beech, is a member of the school board, who recently made a speech to a Parent-Teacher group on the threat of marijuana to the youth of our county."

Last week we published a letter from Harvey in which he went to some length to point out that I had inferred a lot of things that I never intended to infer. I've known Harvey since he was not as high as the soda fountain in his Daddy's shop on North Street, and I was hauling Coca-Colas in twice each week. I know he is a hard-working, intelligent citizen who has a large vested interest as well as an overall cultural interest in making his home town a better place.

Here's what I intended to convey with that paragraph: That because of absurd technicalities that have been raised by the supreme court, which pertain to search warrants and to the right of every criminal to have a taxpaid lawyer to defend him, Beech was forced to represent a man charged with a crime that Beech recognizes to be a serious threat to our youth. I could have said all that, but I was in a hurry trying to fill up a hole on the front page. And even my wife agreed that Harvey had a perfectly legitimate gripe. But that doesn't mean Harvey was too right, because she seldom agrees with anything I write, and less that I say.

To make it perfectly clear: I was not criticizing Harvey for doing what a judge ordered him to do. I was not criticizing him for doing everything he could do once he was ordered to do it. To half-heartedly represent a client in many instances is worse than not to represent him at all. . . and Harvey is one of Kinston's better lawyers, who keeps up with what the courts are doing and once he saw the search warrant did not comply with the most recent ruling about search warrants he would have been derelict to not use this to free the man he was ordered to defend even if he knew the man was guilty as hell.

Harvey in his letter raises the point that the defendant had loaned his car to another man and it was possible that the other man had left the marijuana in the car. The only point this raises so far as I'm concerned is: How in the hell did this man rate a court-appointed, tax-paid lawyer if he could afford the exorbitant costs of operating an automobile today?

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