

It's in the Cards



EDITORIALS

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

At Year End

As 1969 becomes an inflexible page in the history of mankind there are signs for guarded optimism, not only for our own country but for the world as a whole.

Everything, of course, is not all rosy. It never has been and never will be but the plusses for the future, in our view, out-number the minusses.

The super-power standoff situation internationally has brought at least the United States and Russia to that point where they realize the suicidal aspects of all-out war, and the nationalistic virus that is epidemic all over the world leaves very little room for colonialism, whether it is manufactured in Moscow or Washington.

And as we have bloodily and expensively discovered in Vietnam inflation is nowhere more violent than in the care and feeding of infant nations. The Russians to a lesser degree have found what an expensive bauble a Castro can be; and the United States taxpayers have a dozen of these bush league potentates eating out of their pocket for everyone the Kremlin has adopted.

So the super-power standoff today is to try to keep these brawling brat type nations from becoming so involved militarily and emotionally in world affairs that they might trigger the unthinkable. An all-out war in which nobody would be winner.

These sore spots on the international anatomy include the tenuous borders between Israel and its Arabic neighbors, and an assortment of ugly ulcers scattered through much of Equatorial Africa, where tribal frontiers never have coincided with the geography imposed upon that area by European colonial-

ism. In Asia there seems to be an easing of the pain in some areas that have given diplomats and generals headaches in the past. The one running sore is still in Vietnam, but there is a solid basis for believing that President Nixon is engaged in a disengagement there that will solve that problem in time to assure re-election in 1972.

Why Not Now

Before many more generations have been born and burped it will become necessary to alter a very large part of the thinking that is traditional for the most of us insofar as housing is concerned.

New materials, new systems and new thinking will bring luxury housing within the reach of every American before this century is ended. The big question is: eventually, why not now?

The materials and technology available at this moment could wipe out every sub-standard hovel in the nation more quickly and more easily than it has put four men on the moon and brought them back to earth — and for less money.

But before this space-age technology can be put to work there has to be a great deal of education done on the body politic, and in particular that segment which now lives in sub-standard housing.

With plastics being what they are there is no need for the frightening expensiveness and the brittle short life of the bathroom. The entire room could be built in one unit. Designed for ease of cleaning, maintenance and longevity it would be "plugged in" like other ma-

Crime Fighting

When a majority of Americans wish, crime can be eradicated. . . not all crime but the organized syndicated kind of crime that causes most of us to shiver.

Organized crime exists off the profits made from sale of illegal drugs, illegal women, and illegal gambling. Legalize these three things and the principal sources of money for organized crime would vanish immediately. The issue for that majority of us who do the voting in America is: Which is worse?

Whether legalized drugs, gambling and prostitution are worse than the influence of organized crime on society. There are arguments on both sides, but at this stage of our affairs the majority believes it would be worse to legalize these three sources of syndicate money than to have these admittedly bad habits of mankind legalized.

But so it is, or was, with alcohol. No one can insist very realistically that alcohol in all its forms does not injure a great many people — many of them innocently. But when alcoholic beverages were outlawed briefly the problem grew immensely worse than before and so that experiment was ended.

The issue, of course, is not whether we shall have drugs, gambling and prostitution, but whether we shall have them legally or illegally.

England with 40 million people has fewer than 100 drug addicts. There are estimates that New York City alone has more than 100,000!

What is a drug addict? A person who for physical or mental reasons needs the relief of drugs. The addiction may start from either end of this spectrum. For relief of physical pain the drug becomes a mental necessity or from involvement due to mental causes the drug then becomes a physical necessity.

What makes this problem so great in the United States and so small in England? Here if a person becomes addicted, except in most unusual circumstances he is forced to get his drugs illegally and pay exorbitant prices. In England an addict can get all the drugs his body can tolerate for a few cents a day, and so may remain gainfully and legally employed. Here all too frequently because of the high price of drugs a large per cent of addicts turn to crime in order to get the money.

Those who insist upon remaining conventional would, of course, have the right, and the price of conventional housing would be lowered since the labor and materials now consumed by lowered-priced housing would be more available than at present for industrial construction.

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PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

A committee, named for its chairman Milton Eisenhower, has come up with a long-winded assortment of supposed findings and recommendations that has to stand beside anything published in 1969 as a work of artful fiction. Firstly, it continues to twang on that single string of the sociologist banjo, which says over and over that criminals are not the cause of crime; that society is to blame for not having anticipated the inner yearnings of every thug who preys upon the public.

President Nixon accurately summed it up while campaigning last year by saying: "We cannot explain away crime in this country by charging it off to poverty. The role of poverty as a cause of the crime upsurge in America has been grossly exaggerated." But this committee that has just blown \$1.6 million of the taxpayers' dollars up in one puff of pinkish smoke still insists:

"The way in which we can make the greatest progress toward reducing violence in America is by taking the actions necessary to improve the conditions of family and community life for all who live in our cities, and especially for the poor who are concentrated in the ghetto slums." The committee wants to spend \$25 billion more per year on such paternalistic projects.

Criminals are not criminals because they are poor. Poor people are not automatically criminals. It is the grossest slander ever mumbled by any over-educated jerk to infer that there is a direct ratio between poverty and crime. If this illogical pipe dream were true what would our country have been like in the Thirties when 98 per cent of the people were poor?

According to the FBI there were 4.5 million serious crimes recorded in 1968, and of course the number has grown in the year just ended. But there are 100 million adults in our country, and since many criminals are guilty of committing many more than one of the crimes recorded the number of deliberate criminals runs to well below four per cent of the total adult population.

But during 1968 and every recent years weak - minded judges, maternalistic paroles boards, permissive juries, and imbecilic supreme court decisions were turning criminals loose far faster than the police could round them up. If this sounds like an exaggeration consider: In 1967 there were 5,518,420 persons arrested in the United States by 4,566 law enforcement agencies that file reports with the FBI. Yet at the end of that year there were less than 200,000 of that nearly six million in jail. The other 5,800,000 were back out on the streets, still breaking the laws and still thumbing their nose at the police.

Certainly prison is not the place for every person who breaks the law, but it is the proper home for more than three per cent of those who deliberately threaten the lives and property of all society.

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