Watergate: mirror of America

Watergate has been the craving horror of 1973. Who? Why? How? What to do? What national catharsis is needed to rid the body politic of the sickness that has invaded it?

For our part, we think that this is the time to raise some ultimate issues that far transcend debates over individual guilt or even governmental institutions, important as these questions are.

The Eastern religions teach the law of karma, according to which an individual is sooner or later rewarded or punished for his good or evil acts. We wonder whether there is not a little karma involved in what is now happening to America.

Why shouldn't we have had a Watergate? Actually? Isn't modern philosophy teaching the idea that there are no absolutes? If there is no absolute truth, why should there be any absolute "right" vs. "wrong" or moral code of any kind? If the Ten Commandments are obsolete, as many claim, with what are they to be replaced? If adultery and fornication are okay why is Watergate so terrible? Is Watergate a greater social evil than the destruction of the family through unlicensed sexual freedom, women's lib, pornography and the general flood of filth of every kind? Is there any longer any universal code of morality to which men can repair or upon which a nation can be maintained and governed? If so, who can tell us what it is?

Our philosophers tell us joyfully that each man should decide for himself as to what he shall believe and what laws he shall obey. There must be no restrictions against anything. How can we have honesty, integrity and similar virtues in our people, or in the leaders which they elect if we are a society which fundamentally smells as nose at the commandments of God? Other societies which have abandoned virtue and given themselves over to sensual pleasures have inevitably paid the price in dishonest and corrupt leadership. Why should ours be an exception?

If we want to avoid Watergates we'd better get back to a little more of the "fundamental" religion instead of the ersatz brand being dished up by the so-called theologians of the day. Otherwise we can forget about cleaning up government. Men smart enough to get elected in the first place are quite capable of getting around barriers to hanky-panky if there are no barriers to it in their own souls.

Back to the bicycle

Among New Year's resolutions, a good one would be to take a simple step that would help solve the energy crisis, improve the environment and improve your health. That step: leave the car at home and take the bicycle.

An estimated 80 million Americans already use bicycles to solve at least part of their transportation needs. Significantly, an increasing percentage of them are adults. In 1960, bikes for adults accounted for only 5% of U.S. sales. Last year, with total sales topping 11.5 million, the figure was 55%.

The current bicycle boom sweeping the United States, however, is not an unmixed blessing. Along with more bikes have come more accidents, including more fatalities.

There were 850 deaths from bicycle-motor vehicle accidents in 1971. The number jumped sharply to 1,114 in 1972. In addition, reports indicate that injuries from such collisions are running at a clip of about 40,000 annually.

What can be done about it? A lot. Riders themselves can do much to ensure their own safety by using lights and reflective material on both themselves and their bikes. If you are not certain whether additional safety equipment is necessary, a good rule of thumb is to use overkill.

Carelessness on the part of riders, however, is only half the story. The other half lies in highway design and regulations that positively discriminate against the cyclist.

Some steps that states and communities can take to make bicycling safer include: give cyclists the right-of-way on highways, plan bikeways on highway lanes and alongside on pathways. Bicycle safety programs, traditionally just for children, are needed for adults as well, both as parents and riders.

The new Federal Aid Highway Act makes funds available to states to help pay for bike paths and other safety features. But our state and our community must first decide that the safety of our children and others who have gone back to the bike is important enough to spur us into action.

20 and 40 years ago

Thursday, Jan. 7, 1954

Mayor Power was sworn in by retiring Mayor W.C. Talbert Monday night. Because of the water shortage, all meters will be read, and immediately thereafter, the user will begin to pay at the rate of $5.00 per thousand gallons of water used. The lower lake was estimated Sunday to be 150 feet, averaging two feet in depth with a possible one and one-half to two acres of water left.

The Johnson Memorial Convalescent Home on Elm Street opened Jan. 1 under the management of Mrs. Josie C. Tout of Fleming county.

The sale of 15 dairy cows held last Thursday at the farm of W.E. Piper in the western suburbs brought prices ranging from $75 to $180 per head.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Buckler, a son Stevie Allen, Dec. 30.

DIED—Berry Whitehouse, 79, Sunday night at his home in Louisville. —John Henry Richards, 84, Paris, Sunday night.—William Pent Saunders, 74, Paris, last Thursday.—Silas Smith, 62, Saturday at his home.—Elmo Biddle, 78, Sunday at his home at Cowan.—Robert L. Francis, 81, Sunday at his home.

Thursday, January 4, 1934

Mayor Howard K. Veach and six members of the council elected in November assumed their posts Monday night. Council members are Grimes Caywood, S.A. Dorsey, W.H. Frey, Dr. A.T. Gardner, Joe Scott and W.C. Talbert, all of whom were re-elected with the exception of Mr. Frey, who succeeds M.T. Ruddell.

The total value of all property for taxation in Nicholas county in the year 1934 is placed at $8,114,719 in the report of Tax Commissioner Jim Will Martin, which was filed Monday with the County Clerk.

Sixty-six marriage licenses were issued at the office of the Nicholas County Clerk during the year of 1933. This was an increase of 19 over the number issued the preceeding year.

Cancer continued to lead in the causes of death of all persons buried in the Carlisle cemetery during the past year. There were a total of 80 interments. 14 died with cancer.

R.L. Gillispie, one of the county's best known farmers, suffered painful bruises Monday when a horse he was riding on his farm stumbled and fell with him. Neighbors helped Mr. Gillispie to his home and he has been confined to his room since.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Gaunce, of Carlisle, on Dec. 15, a daughter.

DIED—Mr. E.A. Evans at the home of his son, J.H. Evans, in Carlisle on Dec. 29.—James M. Harney, 71, at his home in Scott county last Wednesday afternoon after an eight day's illness.—Mrs. Edith McDonald Taylor, of near Headquarters, at a hospital in Lexington last Thursday following a long illness.

What is salmonella and staphylococcus? In simple language salmonella is a bad bacteria found in raw meat, fish, poultry, and eggs—and it's carried by dirty hands. And staphylococcus is a bacteria that comes from sneezes, coughs and careless hands. Staphylococcus forms a toxin in ham, custard-filled foods, cream pies, unrefrigerated cooked meat, and dairy products. Cooking kills "staph" but not the toxin.

Food Safety "Rules" are worth learning. The Extension Service and Animal Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are conducting a drive to emphasize the importance of good habits for Food Safety.

Never place other foods on a surface where you have had raw meat or poultry until you have thoroughly cleaned it. Scrub the surface—as well as dishes, knives, and other utensils you've used—with soap and hot water. This keeps harmful bacteria from spreading to cooked foods and salads.

Remove stubborn bacteria from cutting boards by scrubbing the boards with soap and hot water, rinsing thoroughly, and then applying chlorine bleach.

Refrigerate cream, custard, and custard fillings. It is dangerous to let foods of this kind stand at room temperature.

Roasting a turkey? Cook it completely to an internal temperature of 185 degrees F. Never partially cook it and finish cooking later because bacteria can survive in partially cooked poultry. Also "staph" bacteria may produce toxins.

Preparing stuffing? Cook it thoroughly. If the poultry is stuffed, cook until thermometer inserted into stuffing reaches at least 165 degrees F.—bacteria grow rapidly in lukewarm stuffing.

Frozen stuffed poultry? Do not thaw it before baking. Put if right into the oven.

And remember to "think positive." DO—Get your food home where you can put it in the refrigerator or freezer promptly. Don't let groceries sit in a warm car while you do other errands.

DO—Keep hot foods HOT (above 140 degrees F) and cold foods COLD (below 40 degrees F). These prevent bacteria from growing.

DO—Wash your hands with soap and hot water before handling any foods. Then, after you handle raw meat, fish, poultry, or eggs, wash your hands with soap and hot water before working with other foods. This prevents spreading bacteria.

DO—Cool leftovers quickly and put them in the refrigerator. Don't hold any broth or gravy more than a day or two. To serve again, reheat and boil for several minutes before serving—and serve hot!

DO—Freeze foods promptly. Don't let huge quantities of party leftovers fill your refrigerator for days. Plan in advance for ways that you can use the foods. Then freeze the rest. If in doubt about a leftover food, don't hesitate. Throw it out! Food poisoning does not necessarily have a bad smell or taste. Just because the food doesn't seem spoiled doesn't necessarily mean it is all right to eat.

Do Keep Good Food Safe To Eat!

County extension agents
Estil J. Noffsinger
Sara Elmer
Mrs. Margie Wilson

WISH I'D SAID THAT

"A taxpayer is a person who doesn't have to pass a civil service exam to work for the government."—Jo Hill Davis, The Three Forks (Montana) Herald.

"Don't be afraid to ask dumb questions. They're easier to handle than dumb mistakes."—Lee R. Call, Star Valley (Wyo.) Call.

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Russ Metz

Stop cursing the darkness, Congress has lit that one little candle

It's good to know that when the chips are down, the President and Congress forget political animosities and stand together on an issue of great national importance. That's the American way. It grabs you way down here in your patriotism glands.

That's the way it was when faced with an energy crisis and something drastic had to be done to head off a calamity. They did the only thing that could save the day. They put the country on perpetual daylight savings time.

It is the first time the President and Congress have arose in unison to the occasion since the national anthem was played. This is the kind of stuff time capsules are made of.

There are a few people in these mountains wondering just how daylight savings time is going to save fuel, but this is understandable. The moon has a hard time getting over the mountains and, besides, their kids are accustomed to stumbling through mud puddles in total darkness trying to find school buses.

Farmers hate daylight savings time more than anyone. That is because it is a sneaky scheme to beat them at their own game. It has always been tradition that farmers rush off to bed right after the Fibber McGee and Molly program and then bounce out of bed at 4 a.m. or some ungodly morning hour nearby.

They would hustle out to the barn and milk the cows before the critters could wake up and kick over the bucket. Then to the corn station to take first in line and get a higher butterfat count while the tester was still sluggish. Then they'd drive past the banker's house and toot their horns to let the old skinflint know they were out early trying to meet the mortgage. And back home for a breakfast of steak and potatoes, their reward for doing a day's work before anyone else got out of bed.

Daylight savings time makes everyone healthy, wealthy and wise and the farmers are beat at their own game. They no longer eat steak and potatoes for breakfast, substituting Fritos and pop during the Johnny Carson show instead.

The world was getting along fairly well on common time until 1940. Up until then, time was based on the rotation of the earth. Then German goosestepping began rocking the boat and we had to go to something more dependable that the earth turning.

In the early history of this country, all time originated at Washington, D.C. This worked well until Congressmen began showing up late for work claiming the capitol clock was off. After that they allowed the railroads to set the times in the communities they served. Railroaders had all the big, fancy turnips with lids that snapped open and bragged about having to be accurate to a split second or there would be a colossal collision in the St. Louis switchyards. This worked well until the trains started acting like Congressmen and pulling into the station late.

It was finally concluded the best time to keep was Greenwich time, if you didn't own a Timex. Since then watchmakers all over the world have been trying to produce instruments that would get you to supper on time. None have been able to get more hours in a day. It took the President and Congress to do that.

The only trouble with daylight savings time is whose time you are tinkering with. In the U.S. there are four time zones, the Eastern Coastline, the Penn Central, L & N, Great Northern and Union Pacific. All have a disease called Amtrak, which runs amuck only in big cities.

Most people travel by jet anymore. From this is contracted jet lag, something akin to jake leg, which even daylight savings time can't cure.

Year-round daylight savings time is the salvation of our energy crisis. Atomic and solar power shows you our scientists are in a rut. It took Washington brainpower to break the energy barrier.

Only these great thinkers could improve on nature: artificial daylight.

It'll never replace John Wayne. You can't get a computer to slouch properly.

But an IBM computer has been riding across the West Texas badlands, tracking down stolen saddles, I read somewhere. An electronic computer is challenging Superman's record as a crime fighter. The story said: I'm not too surprised at that. Superman spent too much time in telephone booths changing clothes to catch anyone except one-legged bandits.

Apparently the saddle-sore Texas Rangers are sold on the electronic Wyatt Earp. The Rangers have used it to fight saddle rustlers and other badmen whose fingers stick to horse trailers and about anything else that isn't nailed down on the ranch.

"We have a listing of nearly 800 saddles reported stolen during the past few months," a Southwest Cattle Raisers Association spokesman said. "Since our recovery system started operation last fall, we've matched 94 stolen saddles with their owners and we're now able to trace and return two saddles a week."

Maybe they are using the computer to herd cattle, too, which could account for so many empty saddles layin' around. This is a far cry from the old west when a cowpoke worked, ate and slept on his saddle. When his saddle was lifted, he didn't need a computer to deal with the thief. He simply followed the hoof marks until he came upon his saddle and promptly shot whatever was on it.

It is hard for me to imagine a computer in a white hat heading them off at the pass. Regardless of how effective it is, the picture has a locoweed look about it. Two Texas Ranger-type computers squatted down behind a rock, trading lead with a band of saddle snatchers. A shot rings out and one of the computers lets out a low whine.

"Where'd they get you, podnuh," his buddy asks him in code.

"I'm a goner," the mortally-wounded machine gasps. "Plugged plumb smack dab in the middle of my power complex. Everything is coming up till, but before I go, I want you to have my index program, my soul decals and my little black recreation reel. You know that cute lil office calculator, the one who has been blinking at me lately? Give her my Sons of Pioneers tapes to clasp to her bosom. And, please old buddy, don't bury me on the lonesome prairie. You know how I hate sand."

The thing that gives the computer an advantage is the devaluation of the saddle. An old cowpoke, who spent three months wages for one, meant to use and fully protect it. In our affluent society, a saddle is more of a conversation piece than a thing to live on. Prosperous dudes are likely to have more saddles than horses.

With a saddle in every garage and its owner in front of the teevee set watching a horse opry, it stands to reason that a few saddles are going to stray off. The fact that computers help get them back into the garage to gather more dust isn't the greatest contribution to mankind.

No computer in the world is going to get the results of a mad cowboy. The computer is not programmed to drink redeye, roll makins at a full gallop, fan a sixgun, start a barroom brawl, pick a guitar, brand a doggie, or ride off into the sunset.

Tinhorns are not going to make it in the West.

Up, up and away.

Agree or Not

By S. C. Van Curon

FRANKFORT—The 1974 legislature will open Jan. 8 and is expected to receive more than 1,000 bills for consideration during the 60-day session that will end in mid-March.

The role of the legislator is generally understood by the public, but the role of two other groups important in the legislative session are not so well understood or defined for the public.

The press and the lobbyists play important roles in every legislative session, but there are public misconceptions about both. The press is sometimes accused of hunting the sensational and the tawdry instead of reporting factual happenings of the legislature, but this is untrue of the press as a whole.

The lobbyist sometimes is pictured as the shadowy figure lurking in doorways and hotel rooms to thwart the will of the people and devoted to grinding the axe for special interests. This is far from the truth.

The Lobbyists also represent the people as a whole although the lobbyists may be employee of divergent business firms and industries, but their common cause, in most instances, is to protect business and the people of the Commonwealth.

Before you make a snap judgment that lobbyists are sinister people fighting for a special interest, remember the Constitution of the United States gives the people the "right to petition for redress of wrongs." This is the role the lobbyist fills.

Lobbyists, for the most part, are highly skilled persons who have experienced and knowledgeable law firms to read the bills and analyze them. Lobbyists confer almost daily with their law firms.

Lobbyists appear before the legislative committees considering particular bills and often point out the language of the bill doesn't do exactly what the sponsor of the bill intended, or point out where rewording will be more beneficial to the public. Lobbyists often support bills against special interests for the benefit of the public.

Understand the second session of any governor's term is the one where the governor has his budget bill to pass and one or two other important measures, if he passed his program in the first session. This leaves the legislative session open for all kinds of hare-brained measures inimicable to the public interest and even open to some bills drafted to especially punish some segment of business or an individual. These are known as "turkey bills" in legislative halls and are often drafted, not to pass, but to raise campaign funds or expenses for some legislators knowledgeable in the art.

Slightly more than 300 bills pass in any legislative session out of the more than 1,000 introduced, and remember Gov. Wendell Ford vetoed more than 100 in his first session.

The role of the newspaper is to keep the public informed of the contents of important bills affecting them and to point out the good and the bad features of them so the public may understand. The working newsman has no special interest in the bills being considered. He's there to report to the public. Without this, the public would have little knowledge about the bills or how to talk to his representative and let the public side be known to the legislators.

Frequently, experienced newsmen are asked by freshmen legislators to explain some bills or legislative procedures for them, or to direct them to the place they can get information on the subject. The most crushing thing that happens to the freshman legislator is to learn he has only 1 vote out of 100 in the House or 1 vote out of 38 in the Senate.

MERCURY VAPOURS

by Warren R. Fisher

Where's my bucket

For the past eight months we've been publishing editorial cartoons drawn by Jerry Alexander, Seneca, S.C. and though they are not expressly drawn for the Mercury, most of the time the drawings seemingly fit the occasion—that is current news.

Although we might fit into the business or industry category we just can't help but feel we'll end up like "Just Plain Joe" in the cartoon this week.

But again maybe that's what "Uncle Sugar" wants us to feel.

—MV—

Enjoy it when it's in

Had a letter from a friend in Cynthiana, namely Tom Wilson, saying he was glad to see the column back in print, but also wondered if same had been crowded-out. Wish I could say that it really was crowded-out, but must confess, I was too something or other to write any blurps. My blurp-ability sorta comes and goes.

—MV—

The Mercury with this issue enters its 107th year of existence and my 36th year less a few for military service. But what really amazes me is how much I don't know or put another way how much I must have forgotten.

Hospital notes

Dec. 16, 1973 to Dec. 24, 1973. Visiting hours are 2:00 to 4:00 and 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

ADMITTED: Alma Cartmill, Lola Davis, Donna Hamm, Judy Manley, Lottie Cox, Orpha Brumagen, Louise B. Delaney, Kenneth McDonald, Blanche Cameron, Lizzie Mae Ritchie, Charlotte Hardin, Addie Jolly, Betty Hopkins, Dorothy Curtis, Christine Mitcheltree, Arrah Lee Sexton, Carlisle; Robert Dollins, Pamela Stacy, Ewing; Macie O. Toy, James M. Fryman, Sharpsburg; Brian Todd Combess, Winchester; Bobby Lee Smith, Cynthiana; Elmer Linville, Mt. Olivet; Ethel Iahmael, Moorefield; Helen Rose Blake, J.W. Leggett, Paris.

DISMISSED: Donna Hamm, Judy Manley, Ricky Carter, Fannie Mae Anderson, Lola Davis and baby girl, Eva Clinkenbeard, Wilella Gardner, Gay Myers, Kenneth McDonald, Pauline Cartmill, Ruth Blount, Della Hopkins, Ada McCarty, Orpha Brumagen, Lizzie M. Ritchie, Carlisle; Patty Skaggs, Macie Toy, Sharpsburg; Glenn Hardin, Moorefield; Jane Duncan, Marty Earlywine, Elizabeth Clarine Mitchell, Pamela Stacy, Ewing; Bobby Lee Smith, Cynthiana.

Equine infectious anemia testing to begin Jan. 1

The state Department of Agriculture Division of Livestock Sanitation will require that Kentucky horses be tested for equine infectious anemia effective Jan. 1, 1974.

The disease, commonly called "swamp fever," is very contagious and often fatal. Insects, primarily mosquitoes and horse flies, and contaminated surgical instruments are the main carriers. Horses with the disease suffer from intermittent fever, weakness, loss of weight and anemia.

Dr. Tom Maddox, state veterinarian, said that all horses for sale in the state will be required to have a negative test within 60 days before the date of sale and all horses to be entered in a race or a show must have a negative test every six months.

Local veterinarians will take blood samples from the horses in their areas and send them for analysis and diagnosis to the University of Kentucky, Central Kentucky Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, both in Lexington, or the Department of Agriculture Diagnostic Laboratory, Hopkinsville. Horses, which have the disease will then be quarantined until they are destroyed or die, Dr. Maddox said.

There is no known cure for the disease although blood transfusions and supportive treatment can improve a horse's condition. However, most horses are not treated because they remain carriers of the disease and can infect other horses even after recovery.

About 3.3 per cent of the horses tested have the disease, Dr. Maddox said.

Joyettes Singers to present program at Wesley Chapel

Joyettes Singers from Mayslick will present a program at the C.M.E. Wesley Chapel Sunday, Jan. 6, at 3 p.m. The public is invited.

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NURSING HOME NEWS

by Mrs. Virginia Smith Donovan

When you read this it will be past history. Hope you had a nice Christmas. Maybe you didn't get everything you wanted but all you needed.

Here at the home I know no one was missed.

The Methodist Men came one Sunday and had a fine program, gave each one a pretty place mat with a scripture verse on it.

Mrs. Betty Mathers came representing the Eastern Star one day and left a little metalic Christmas tree in each room, makes our windows look so pretty.

Believe was Tuesday evening the employees had a big supper, potluck—everything. Names were drawn and everyone received a present. Some of the employees brought their family around to see us.

There are some pretty bonnetties, pink, white, red and greenish white, lighted Christmas trees, boxwood trees and I don't know what other kind in the different rooms.

I had a beautiful white keepsake edition of Helen Steiner Rice's poems. I remember letting someone have it and saying, "just take it and keep it as long as you want to because I know where it is." But now I've forgotten. If you have it please, let me know.

About three Scout troops and their leaders came one night and sang Christmas carols. Some had tiny little packages and quietly left them in the rooms.

At this writing Helen Myers mother is still in the hospital.

Mrs. Vada Pelphrey is in a Lexington Hospital. Mrs. Iva Payne has just been in the Paris Hospital but is back at the Nursing Home now.

Edna Huddleson, my good neighbor, brought me a package of panty hose. Then, still later, heard a little knock at the door, was my good friend, Raymond Thompson, had a package from my step-daughter, Ann Donovan Rogers, with a pretty night gown and box of powder.

Still later, Mary June Small and Helen Flora came just loaded down with boxes of bath powder for the residents. These were from the Carlisle Christian Church.

I never did get this straight but once The dining room I saw two girls come in with a package and introduced themselves to Mr. "Gus" Gill, said they had drawn his name, he was their secret grahdpa.

I hope all my friends will read this. I only sent two cards this year. One of these was to my brother. I just wish I could send all of you one.

The last people who came in were folks from the Stoney Creek Christian Church with fruit for all. Right after that little Janet Linville came with a present for me and for Mrs. Payne.

The Light Touch

By Bill Thacker

Sign in a department store: "Four Santa Clauses—no waiting."

• • • •

Youngster we know was so excited about leaving his stocking for Santa to fill. It was his first really big hangup.

• • • •

Nowadays, when you have a problem with your teenager, you talk it over, and he tells you how you can solve it.

• • • •

A family man is one who doesn't get a chance to read the Sunday papers until Monday night.

• • • •

The only way to be sure your train will leave exactly on time is to be 30 seconds late for it.

• • • •

We don't want to be late in wishing you a happy and healthy New Year at Mark X T.V., Old Paris Pike, Ph. 289-5901.

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