Opinion

Beyond the issue in Alton

A growing trend toward massive damage penalties in libel cases could endanger the vigor of a free press upon which democracy is heavily dependent. It may seem self-serving for any newspaper to say that, but a vital public issue is at stake.

If a publication or broadcaster knowingly circulates a false story or prints or broadcasts an item "with reckless disregard" for its truth or falsity, the slipshod journalism deserves rebuke. Still, a very large financial punishment, grossly disproportionate to the injury suffered, is a cause for concern.

Consider, for example, the plight of the Alton (Ill.) Telegraph, a newspaper in danger of being put out of business by a staggering $9.2 million libel judgment for a report that the paper never published. At issue is a businessman's claim that a confidential memorandum sent by two of the paper's reporters to the U.S. Justice Department led to the collapse of his business.

The reporters were checking a tip that a savings and loan association and the businessman, a local contractor, had links to organized crime. When the Justice Department did not respond to the memo from the journalists, and when their own checking failed to confirm the allegation, the story was "killed." Eventually, however, the Justice Department sent the memo to another federal agency, which investigated and discovered irregularities in loans to the contractor. The lending institution cut off the contractor's credit — which, he claimed, ruined his business. After a copy of the reporters' memo was given to the contractor, he filed his libel action.

Faced with the huge judgment, the paper has been forced to file a petition in bankruptcy to protect its presses and other assets from being sold to satisfy the award, pending appeal.

The case's implications reach beyond the concept of a free press. Also joined are such issues as the potential liability of reporters checking damaging allegations, and of anyone who may share suspicions of wrongdoing with authorities. Could a letter from a citizen to a district attorney or police chief land the citizen in a libel suit? That question should be pondered by anyone who thinks that the press' freedom is only the press' worry.

Apart from that question, however, there can be no doubt that the large award in the Alton case serves to inhibit aggressive investigative reporting. That loss would reach far beyond a river town in Illinois.

Thanks local Rotary Club

We are certain everyone enjoyed seeing the waving colors of Old Glory gracing the streets of our city on Labor Day. We sure did.

These flags were displayed by the efforts of our local Rotary Club. The Rotarians have taken over the task of flying the country's colors on national holidays.

Our position on the importance of the symbolic act is by now clear. We only wish to lend a hearty hand of commendation to the Rotarians for their decision to take on this task. Their Rotarian principles are well served by the act.

Junking the jeep

Famed World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle once wrote a column dedicated to that remarkable little vehicle that carted G.I. and general alike through the mud of Europe, the sands of North Africa and the jungles of the Pacific.

"Good Lord," wrote Pyle, "I don't think we could continue the war without the jeep. It does everything."

And for 40 years it has. It is light, as maintenance free as a vehicle can be and has the stamina of a herd of oxen. But it is about to be mustered out of the Army and replaced with a high profile High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle.

The Army hopes the HMMWV will replace the jeep, the half-ton truck and the one and one-quarter ton Gamma Goat. The jeep's weapons platform isn't up to some of the heavier firing systems, the truck doesn't do well on battlefield terrains and the Goat lumbers on the highway.

The HMMWV will, natch, be much more sophisticated and have a diesel engine and automatic transmission — which the Army says will be great because nobody will have to learn to shift gears.

Aw; come on. Any little old lady in tennis shoes can learn the stick shift in a half hour. And it doesn't take the greenest recruit much longer to learn to change the jeeps' plugs and points.

More than 60 companies were asked to submit prototype vehicles and the multibillion contract is expected to be made soon. There is some comfort, however, in the Army's decision to award the initial contract for only 15,000 vehicles, not the 100,000 replacement anticipated.

The Army may well find it will have to reinvent the humble jeep. Vietnam should have taught us that the more sophisticated the weapon, the less utilitarian it may prove to men in the field.

The phasing out of the proven, reliable jeep seems to confirm what some critics fear: If it doesn't control itself, the Defense Department could sophisticate us into extinction.

Agree or not

Brown administration is hit with two employee lawsuits

by S.C. Van Curon

Two lawsuits filed against the Brown administration last week involved personnel actions against state employees and budget cuts in the education department.

It would be difficult to tell which is the most significant.

The one involving personnel deals with the rights of 30,000 state employees and security in their jobs while the one on education deals with cutting two days' pay from 30,000 teachers this school year, plus other budget cuts.

Both suits have significance that reach into the future.

The State Employees' Defense Fund has filed suit in federal district court under the 14th amendment which essentially is an action pertaining to civil rights.

The suit claims the rights of career employees protected by the state's merit system have been violated and seeks restitution to their positions or employment in a suitable position plus back pay.

While this suit involves rights of employees under the state's merit system, it is somewhat different from the one filed on behalf of employees during the administration of Gov. Louie B. Nunn.

The suit during the Nunn administration charged that the employees were fired in violation of the merit system. Specifically, the fired employees were accused of being active in partisan politics in the governor's race when Republican Nunn was elected.

The majority of employees who challenged their firings were restored to their jobs by the courts with back pay. This action cost the state about a million dollars according to Lawrence. Forgy Jr. who was deputy finance commissioner at the time. The charges of partisan political activity were not substantiated.

State employees felt secure under the protection of the merit system during the administrations of Gov. Wendell Ford and Gov. Julian Carroll, but hard times hit state coffers when John Young Brown Jr. became governor. Inflation coupled with the recession caught budget planners overestimating the state's income for the 1980-81 and the 1981-82 budget years and Brown has been forced to retrench.

He has done much of this by reducing the number of state employees, much of it by attrition, but layoffs and dismissals also have figured in the reductions.

The employees' suit contends specifically that employees were laid off without consideration of seniority, service records, performance and conduct and qualifications in violation of the merit system.

— Employees were laid off in a capricious manner in violation of the 14th amendment right to equal protection under the law.

— Vacancies were filled from the competitive register before plaintiffs and career employees were given full consideration for re-employment.

Several career employees, defined as those having 20 years or more of service with the state, were laid off or fired and that hundreds with five or more years of service that entitles them to funding under retirement system were treated likewise.

A spokesman for some of the fired employees said "they realized that an administration has the right to reduce personnel under these circumstances, but the objection is that people were fired without consideration of service, ability or seniority."

The Kentucky Education Association filed the suit regarding cutting the education budget and particularly the fact that two days of in-service training for teachers were cut from the school year and the pay for teachers was cut for these days.

The suit charges this is in violation of state statutes.

The 1980 legislature passed a law that state employees under the merit system were entitled to seniority rights or preferential treatment for re-employment when staff reductions became necessary.

This further strengthened the state's employee merit system.

Teachers complain they are the only employees denying state funds who had their worktime and salaries reduced. They complained that the reduction should cover all 30,000 state employees.

This particular action saves about $5.5 million dollars for the year. This could have been covered with little notice by the individual employee if each pay check had been cut the same amount.

It would have been more equitable if the cut had been made on a percentage basis, but none of the top brass of the state administration took a penny cut.

Down Memory Lane

Officials raid moonshine still

Thursday, September 14, 1961

A Band Boosters Club was organized September 1 to seek ways to promote the bands' activities financially and to encourage the support of the community.

Mrs. Nelle Brayfield was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel Wednesday, August 4, for many years' work with the 4-H and other civic activities.

The Jaycees will sponsor a fund raising event Saturday on the Courthouse lawn.

The Nicholas County Schools opened Monday, September 4 with enrollment over 900. The enrollment by schools was: Moorefield, 184; Nicholas County Grade, 401; and Nicholas County High, 334, making a total of 919.

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BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. William C. Hunt a daughter, Bridgette Anne, August 30 at Harrison Memorial Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. William Jones a daughter, Lissa Gail, September 3 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Fryman a son, Lowell Jr., September 4 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fryman a son, September 10 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Arthur K. Linville a daughter, Karen Gayle, September 6 at Salt Lake City, Utah.

MARRIED — Miss Judith Lynn Clapp and Robert Clay Henry, August 26 at Epworth Methodist Church, Lexington. — Mrs. Tucker Waller to Stanley D. Petter Jr., Saturday in Lexington. — Miss Carol Faye Tincher and Hayluard Baker, September 2 at Carlisle Christian Church. — Miss Judith Ann Dillon and Joe Dudley Denton, August 30 in Mt. Sterling.

DIED — Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Triplett, 83, Bath County, Saturday at her home on the Gudgell Hill Road. — Alfred Marshall (Slick) Peed, 74, Thursday in Mt. Sterling. — Robert Thomas Colliver, 79, Sunday at his home in Moorefield.

Thursday, September 11, 1941

Lightning set fire to the barn of Jack Alexander of the Ishmael community last Friday destroying 15 bales of hay and 50 sticks of tobacco.

The Farmers Stock Yards reported the selling of 1,864 head of livestock Tuesday with top veals bringing $13.50 down.

Rev. G.R. Tomlin, for the past three years pastor of the Carlisle Methodist Church, has accepted a call to the Grace Methodist Church at Newport. He will be replaced by Rev. O.C. Seevers of Richmond.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. William R.

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The Kentucky Press Association
Kentucky Weekly Newspaper and Western Kentucky Newspaper Associations
and
NNA NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

Letters

from our readers

To The Carlisle Mercury:

I being Mrs. Pansy Robinson am writing a complaint to the public about our so-called leaders, secretaries, bookkeepers, record keepers and their responsibilities for their jobs.

As my name has appeared in **The Carlisle Mercury** five times since the fall of 1980 over the Nicholas County Hospital vs Pansy Robinson.

I was in the hospital in 1976 on a good paying insurance that pays in full from P&H Construction Company where my husband was employed at the time.

Now if I hadn't had insurance I'm sure I'd had to of had at least $100.00 to enter the door. But thank God I had insurance. I was dismissed in two and one-half days not paying a penny.

Then quote on the fall of 1980 the bookkeeper of the Nicholas County Hospital called me and wanted me to get her an insurance form. I told her I would try and ask her why. She said quote I did not send your bill in when you was in the hospital."

So I did try to get a form but after four years I did not succeed. I had my insurance card so I took it to Colney and he called the hospital and matched my number with theirs. They were alike.

Now this is what I'm trying to explain, what is wrong with a judge that will keep having someone to come back hearing after hearing, same old story not allowing you to speak a word in your behalf only "Now Mrs. Robinson, you will have to pay this bill or sue the insurance company," quote.

With all the evidence to prove I was not in fault.

I do not work in an office. I am not a bookkeeper and if I was and didn't know how I'd give up my job.

I am tired of being called to court wasting time and gas money for no reason at all. I do not feel that I owe this bill and I have no intention at all of paying it.

I don't even feel that I should pay taxes. What good use are they?

If my case is not dismissed tomorrow I am going to take my stand as they have had theirs for so long. I'm not shedding tears and biting my fingernails over something that is right down stupid. My name means something to me and I have my rights. I don't have to be pushed around by nobody as the old saying goes.

If the shoe fits wear it and I'm proud to sign my name to the letter.

Pansy Robinson
East Union, Ky.

To The Carlisle Mercury:

The Blue Grass Automobile Club-AAA strongly opposes the state Department of Transportation's recent proposal to increase highway tolls by one cent or more per mile.

Kentucky's toll roads were designed strictly for economic development, and their deficits should be paid out of the general funds, rather than user taxes. AAA recognizes that highway funding is a grave issue. But, the state cannot afford to jump into the fire with just any alternative. Certainly, raising tolls should not be considered, since it could have a devastating effect on Kentucky's economy through decreased usage of the roads.

Currently, many trucks are not using these highways because they do not want to pay the tolls. Therefore, they are traveling on roads which were not built to withstand the weight of 80,000 pound vehicles. This results in unnecessary road maintenance costs.

AAA is concerned that an increase in tolls would continue to decrease travel on these roads. Motorists are already extremely conscious of how much they pay for gasoline and how much it costs to operate their cars. They are looking for ways to cut costs.

The debt service in Kentucky on toll roads is $54 million each year, and this doesn't include maintenance costs. The revenue for the current year is only about $19 million, and, from this come $6 million to collect tolls. Even if toll revenue was doubled, it would not retire the bond debt.

Financing highways through tolls is the most expensive method, because frequently the interest and toll collection costs greatly exceed construction costs. Also, toll roads are self-perpetuating and seldom become toll free. Reconstruction often is necessary long before the bonded debt is retired, forcing new bond issues and the extension of tolls.

The Blue Grass Automobile Club encourages motorists to urge the Department of Transportation and state legislators to study methods of raising highway funds other than through tolls.

Regards,
Bob Owen,
Blue Grass Automobile Club

Op-ed page

If she's a former exotic dancer . . . would her radar blips be X-rated?

Now that the government is training a new crop of air controllers to replace those who have been fired, I think the result is going to be interesting. The process could take two years, but there is no shortage of applicants.

Thousands already have indicated a desire to attend the federal training center in Oklahoma City and get into the nice salary slot of $36,000 average that controllers make.

Obviously the new controllers will come from all walks of life. And, presumably they will bring with them occupational traits of previous professions. So, maybe it is fair to wonder whether firmly entrenched traits or work habits will creep in when the fledgling controllers take over the radar screens and microphones in the towers.

What, for far-fetched example, if a one-time Marine Corps drill instructor reverts back to boot camp psychology while handling air traffic?

Pilot in plane on ground: "Bonanza 215 requests clearance for takeoff."

Ex-D.I.: (angrily) "Which one of you stupid jokers said that? Speak up or the whole bunch of you is grounded. And when you talk to the tower, you will say 'sir' or you will be very sorry. Do you read me?"

Pilot: "Yes sir, sorry sir!"

Ex-D.I.: "You better understand me, mister. Now take one lap around the field so you won't forget. All I want to see are ailerons and wing flaps. Now move it!"

A different dialogue might ensue if the controller is a former maitre d' and finds it hard to separate his head waiter instincts from air controllers' duties. For instance:

Ex-head waiter: "Yes, American Air 709, do you have a reservation?"

Pilot: "This is American Air 709 and I'm sorry we do not have a reservation, but we have been cooling our wings in a holding pattern for an hour. Isn't there one open runway we can come in on?"

Ex-head waiter: "I am sorry, sir. Our airport is very crowded tonight. I am sure you understand those who were here first must be given some priority."

Pilot: (sensing controller's former profession), "But I have 130 VIP guests aboard as passengers. All are very well-to-do business executives looking for a good time and have expressed a desire for good service and are willing to pay for it. Do I make myself clear?"

Ex-head waiter: "We do hate to inconvenience important visitors, so perhaps I could move you up a bit. Why, I do believe I have a runway opening coming up now. Please follow my direction to runway 5 and I hope you have a pleasant landing. And...I do accept credit cards."

Such incidents would be disconcerting, but the ultimate in irritation might result if the air controller is a former third-rate comedian, who cannot shake the urge to get a few more laughs.

Pilot of incoming plane: "I may need a little extra help, tower, I've got a cargoload of pears that seem to be shifting and one of my engines is acting up. What do you suggest?"

Ex-comic: "There's only one thing you can do. Come in on a wing and a prayer. Yuk, yuk!"

Pilot of another inbound plane: "This is Pioneer 936 to the tower. I'm 25 miles out and running into heavy fog. I'll have to go on instruments."

Ex-comic: "If you are going to rely on instruments, I've got just the one for you. It's a clarinet. Get it? Clari-NET!"

Another pilot: "This is holiday charter 647. We seem to be losing altitude for no apparent reason..."

Ex-comic: "No sweat. Just tell your stewardesses to make the cocktails stronger. That way, everyone will get a little laugh. Yukkity, yuk!"

Then there may be...the former lawyer, who had been disbarred for charging clients what he was worth.

Ex-lawyer: "Party one to party two..."

Pilot in smoking plane: "We are not having a party and the no-smoking light is on. The smoke you see is coming out of an engine..."

Ex-lawyer: "Be it therefore resolved, then that party of the second part is allegedly in a state of extreme stress and seeks services of the party of the first part to represent him in a possible settlement of aircraft to runway. Does party of second part agree to this?"

Pilot: "I agree, you dingbat. Get off that legalese and get me down...fast!"

Ex-lawyer: "Now, now, sir, we cannot hurry a litigation like this. I must first look up previous cases such as this for a ruling. If this is a first, I'm afraid I'll have to have a long consultation with you, get depositions, file briefs with the FAA and ask for a corpus splatterus as a last report."

Pilot: "If I get out of this alive, I'm coming up that tower and kill you."

Ex-lawyer: "That, sir, is terroristic threatening covered by the FAA statutes and punishable by five to ten years on the Zambia-Libya run and a $1500 fine for air controllers' recreation room fund."

Pilot: "Even if I get killed, I'll come back and haunt you."

— RM —

One of the cleverest minds in television, in my opinion, belongs to David Brinkley, the NBC newsman. He is a former newspaperman, who came up through the school of hard knocks that hones his mind to a razor edge. Some of his recent comments include:

"I guess it is true that I have been on television longer than anyone dead or alive, including Lassie. And on Lassie, they changed dogs."

On Jimmy Carter, he commented, "I never thought it was fair to blame Billy for his brother's mistakes."

Saying he is never able to think of what to tell working journalists, Brinkley recalled the story he once wrote as a young North Carolina newsman about a drunk sentenced to 30 days for the 98th time.

On the 99th, the drunk corrected him in the courtroom saying, "It isn't 99, it's 100. I wish you'd get it straight because my mother's keeping a scrapbook."

And he recalled the letter he received from an attorney, reminding him that the legal community, which licenses and disciplines its own, is a true profession, while journalism is a "mere trade."

Brinkley said that he responded with a letter that said, "Dear Sir: Yes, lawyers are licensed. So are barbers, beauticians, taxi drivers, electricians, plumbers and installers of septic tanks.

"In theory you can be disciplined by your own members, but in practice you are not. Every crook in the Watergate scandal with one exception was a lawyer. Not one was a journalist."

— RM —

Preacher Lowell Rice told the story about an unusual way of hunting squirrels and, since so many of my buddies are highly qualified to hunt them this way, I'll relate it.

Seems this city dude decided he wanted to take up hunting squirrels and went to a sporting store and got himself outfitted with all the equipment. He bought a fine automatic shotgun, a case of shells, hunting outfit with matching hat and boots and a hunting license, and then told his wife to get the skillet hot.

Off he went into the big woods to slay the crafty little creatures. Six hours later, he was still looking for his first squirrel and getting pretty disgusted with the whole thing.

About dusk, he heard a noise and saw a figure coming through the woods toward him. An old grizzled mountain man stopped to look the dude over. The crusty old codger had squirrels strung around his belt and over his shoulder, he was literally loaded with game. But he was not carrying a gun of any kind.

The city slicker eye-balled the mountaineer up and down and finally had to ask him:

"How in the world did you get all those squirrels, when I haven't seen a one, and you don't even have a gun?"

The old man spit out a stream of tobacco juice and told the dude, "You have to look close to see a squirrel and then get in close to him. When I see a squirrel, I move up close to him and eyeball him until he falls out of the tree.

"I ugly him to death."

"That's the most amazing-thing I ever heard," said the dude. "You actually can kill a squirrel this way? You can really ugly them to death? You must be the only person in the world with this kind of power!"

"Naw," said the mountain man, "I used to take my wife with me hunting squirrels, but had to quit. She tore them up too much."

Onward, upward.

An editor's random thoughts...

by Warren R. Fisher Sr.
September 14, 1933

Thoughts while driving: Zinnias in the edge of a tobacco field; some woman's yearning for beauty in the drab round of drudgery that brings the bitter weed to its sticky, velvety burgeoning...Now the fields are tented with rows of tiny wigwams of the wilted leaf, split and straddled on pointed sticks, first step in the fruition or frustration of that hope that was signalled to the grey skies of last February as the bed fires burned, warming the chill earth for the reception of the seed. In between are days of back-breaking work, weeks of anxiety, as the sun blazes and no rain falls, and the green leaves burn yellow in the fields. Work, work, and now more work until the crop is housed; then foreboding of the curing and more work when the skies are again grey and icy winds rattle the windows and suck at the glowing stoves of stripping rooms redolent with the aroma of White Burley.

The gold and orange and magenta of the zinnias that flaunted their beauties along the fence row is only a memory then, the stalks dry and brittle is heard...the fields creak now even under the noon-day sun with the rising insect chorus, fiddling valiantly, singing to their doom. Yet under the mellow September sun Summer reaches her maturity and gathering her full-grown children about her, she broods lovingly over them in the utter peace of fulfillment...It is to me the loveliest of seasons perhaps, though there is lacking the fresh tang of April, the passionate, rose-rioting fullness of young June. It is as if Nature were teaching us, these days of mellow sunshine, how to grow old gracefully, how to face the Change peacefully and with a hope that sees beyond the greyness the burgeoning of another Spring...Melons on the vine, melons piled on rude make-shift tables at the patch edge...rosy-hearted fruit for the mid-day, golden yellow melons for breakfast, these are of the delightful compensations of Summer's old age...

Pleasant to drive in September through the rolling fields of this lakeland of Kentucky, hearkening to me to see more fat cattle under the walnuts, to glimpse the promise of a bounteous harvest...and God grant that it and these may prosper him who furrowed the soil with hope last Spring...We are going back these days, it seems to me, to simpler things; we are turning again longingly to the soil; we are including in our economic planning as never before the man who walks the furrow and him whose food and clothing and the happiness of whose family depends upon the turn of the season and more particularly upon the wage he is offered for his labor, the return that is his for the fruit of his toil...Surely the calm conservatism of the founders of this nation has bred in our people a patience that will await the peaceful working out of the economic revolution that is undeniably upon us. How much better thus than to lose our heads and run amuck into the vagaries of communistic theories...and yet, there must be exhibited by those whose creed has been gain and whose theory has been that all is fair "in business," an equal amount of common sense, of willingness to forego great profits, of patience with the slow working out of our economic salvation...We have suffered comparatively little in this section of Kentucky from the financial depression which has sent men desperate and beaten into the bread lines of the cities; enough, it is true, to see the savings of a lifetime swept away, the well-to-do brought to penury, but there has been comparatively little hunger and suffering in most of the central counties of the State, thanks to the bounty of the Federal Government and the fertility of our soil. But our brothers of the Commonwealth, in the industrial centers, the factory workers and the miners, on them has fallen the cruel hand of hardship and hunger and for them the coming winter holds scant promise of rehabilitation by their own efforts...In this favored section there may be those who prate of doles, but there is suffering and will be more suffering in Kentucky this winter, and while Kentucky's Legislature fiddles with factional hatreds, balking relief, what of the morale of these? Hunger and the spectacle of his children in

•See Random thoughts. . ., Page 8

The Idle Rambler

by James C. Smith

I have made mention of my old college roommate in recent editions of this column. How fitting that he now turns his pen on me.

I received just yesterday from that Ohioan vermin, a letter that is as sure a curse as anything. The letter read:

"Since I know so well your fondness for chain letters, I wasted no time in placing you on this exclusive list. This is a fertilizing chain letter.

"Upon receipt of this letter, go directly to the address at the top of the list and do your business on their front lawn. Don't be embarrassed, you won't be the only one there.

"Immediately thereafter, make five copies of this letter, leaving the top name off, and adding your name and address at the bottom. Send them to five of your best friends and urge them to do the same.

"You won't receive any money or checks, but within five days — if this chain is not broken — you will have 3,216 people doing their business on your front lawn.

"Your reward next summer will be the greenest lawn on the block."

How does one respond to a communique like that? I mean geez, I don't even live on a block. And I must admit that "doing their business" is a euphemism required for publication in this newspaper.

The attached personal letter was even stranger. I'll disclose a portion in order to graphically illuminate the warped mind with which I spent my unacademic collegiate evenings:

"...this chain letter reaches the apex of poor taste. Therefore I felt it my duty to see that you had your own copy.

"I've been off work for a couple of hours and had to do something besides stare at the aftershirt of modern technology, the TV. I'm sure Dave's (Tim's current roommate and chronic TV addict), brain cowers in the lower third quadrant of the skull rotting from atrophy. If he were a zoo animal they would prod him with a stick to see if his body could respond to physical stimuli. However, I'm sure they would conclude from his glassy stare that some crazied tourist had placed large amounts of sedatives in his cage, which in turn would explain his behavior..." and so on.

Mom, see why I came back from college so weird!

— JCS —

I hear where the U.S. Postal Service is considering selling advertising space on its trucks, mailboxes, and possibly on stamps, in an effort to raise added revenue.

What a great idea!

Turtle Wax comes to mind as a possible plugger for the Postal Service's zippy delivery system.

Stamps might be sold in different flavors to push soft drinks, candy or even beer and wine. Yumm!

But the real test of free enterprise will come if the United Parcel Service is permitted to buy space on the back of mail trucks. "Next time try UPS" should be a great slogan to bring in a few bucks.

Facts: If you are heating with oil or electric, we can save you money if you change to our gas service. In addition to saving our gas customers on fuel, we are also discounting our prices to them on ranges, water heaters, clothes dryers, grills, and heating equipment. Call us today, or still better, stop in at our nearest store to you. Gas is clean, gas is automatic, gas is cheaper, gas is best by every test.

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