

Letters

Crime in the Courts

Leonard Downie's "Crime in the Courts" (May) is unjustifiably pessimistic about the possibilities for solutions to what is obviously a complete breakdown in the operation of our criminal justice system. The remedy is not, as Downie seems faintly to imply, more money, more judges, etc. Rather, what we need to do is "decriminalize." If we repeal the laws making it a criminal offense to get drunk, gamble, take narcotics and other dangerous drugs, engage in heterodox sexual activities, such as prostitution, homosexuality, etc., the criminal calendars would be cut back by at least three-quarters. As I stated in my recent book, *The Limits of the Criminal Sanction*:

In the end, the question of alternatives, including the alternative of doing nothing (or less), is a question of resource allocation. We cannot have everything we want of the good things of this world; and that includes, unfortunately, the prevention of the bad things. We must weigh costs and assign priorities. This we have not done, as a glance at the calendar of crimes will readily demonstrate. After all the factors have been considered and somehow weighed, there always remains the question: what alternatives do we have, and finally, are we better off doing nothing? It goes very much against the American grain to adopt the alternative of doing nothing. We do not coexist easily with "evil." And yet it seems clear that in some contexts in which the use of the criminal sanction is at issue, the alternative of doing nothing provides the best available answer.

There is an obvious analogy to our Vietnam policy here. Leaving the morality of the war aside, we badly need to reduce our commitments to match our capabilities. The Moral for our ineptly named "war on crime" seems obvious.

HERBERT L. PARKER
Stanford, Calif.

Mr. Parker is a professor of law at the Stanford Law School.

It is with great interest that I read Leonard Downie's perceptive article on "Crime in the Courts" (May). Mr. Downie is to be congratulated for his eye for the colorful detail, as well as for the accuracy of his over-all assessment of the conditions which unfortunately exist in a great many of our state and federal courts. Some of the conditions which he discusses in his review have also been found by the President's Crime Commission in its 1967 Report. Mr. Downie's article indicates that, in spite of the thoroughly justified criticisms made in 1967, very little has changed.

As you know, great efforts have been made in the District to overcome these kinds of problems to the extent that they were prevalent here. We are hopeful that, with the advent of court reorganization, the District of Columbia courts will make further strides toward the achievement of a criminal justice system which is both efficient and fair.

HAROLD H. GREENE
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Greene is Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions.

Latin America

I agree with Dan Gottlieb ("Military Dictatorships: Why Rockefeller's Wrong," May) that "It should be possible for the United States to find a role [in Latin America] that identifies it with forces for change and representative government without resorting to intervention." As you know, I have expressed similar views over the years while proposing increased emphasis on social change and comprehensive development in U.S. foreign aid programs. The Inter-American Social Development Institute which I proposed and which the Congress authorized by statute last year is a part of this effort. I hope that the Administration, after a six-month delay, will move to implement that legislation.

This, of course, is just one step in the right direction. The larger problem of differentiating in our aid program between governments which pursue the twin goals of development and representative democracy, and those which do not, is still with us. Mr. Gottlieb's article makes a valuable contribution to the debate on this subject.

DANTE B. FASCELL
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Fascell is chairman of the House Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs.

Rebuttal from M.I.T.

I doubt that many of your readers will be other than amused at L. Fletcher Prouty's reference in your May issue to the Center for International Studies at M.I.T. as "CIA-run." However, no doubt some of your readers do not know us well, and although such statements as Mr. Prouty's often outrun corrections, some information about the Center may be useful.

still? For some years after the Center was founded in 1951, we did have research contracts with the CIA together with contracts with AID and grants from the Ford Foundation, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Rockefeller Foundation, the National Science Foundation and a number of other granting institutions. Those from the CIA were for basic research on topics of our choice concerning the Soviet bloc countries, international relations, and economic development. They were sponsored and accepted on the not entirely naive assumption that scholarly analysis might improve U.S. public policy. Scholarly books and many articles in journals resulted.

During this period the Center's advisory committee, which met periodically to assess our

work, included among other distinguished citizens Robert A. Lovett, John Cowles, McGeorge Bundy (then Dean of Harvard College), Laurance S. Rockefeller, and Kingman Brewster, Jr. These gentlemen knew fully all of our research work—that is, all of our work. Anyone who thinks that they would have sanctioned any work not fully controlled by M.I.T. with full integrity in the normal academic way is, if I may use a British phrase, out of his flippin' mind. And what should one think of an editorial staff that lets such a phrase as Mr. Prouty's get into print?

EVERETT E. HAGEN
Cambridge, Mass.

Mr. Hagen is Acting Director of the Center for International Studies.

Peace Corps Politics

They should require a saliva test of anyone who volunteers for Peace Corps after Blatchford's memo (June).

DONOVAN MCCLURE
Charleston, W. Va.

As a (Democratic) member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I feel compelled to comment on the Peace Corps memorandum relating to protests and recruitment procedures (June). The thrust of the memorandum, dramatically substantiated by the deleted provisions from the original draft, is most disquieting.

Recently, the Foreign Affairs Committee by a 12 to 10 vote approved a Peace Corps Act amendment that would explicitly give the Director the power to act against any volunteer who was behaving in a manner detrimental to the "best interest of the United States."

This amendment smacks of the same demand for political conformity and suppression of free thought that the memo did. I believe the views of the 10 Congressmen who voted against the amendment are an appropriate response:

The amendment seems aimed at suppressing dissent among the young men and women who volunteer for Peace Corps Service. It was adopted under the misimpression of Committee members that the Peace Corps Director does not now have the power to discipline volunteers, including terminating their service, if the need arises.

We have been assured by the General Counsel of the Peace Corps that this is not the case. The Peace Corps Director has broad powers, as chief executive

officer of the Corps, delegated by the President, to prescribe regulations to prevent employees from acting detrimentally to the national interest. The Director's powers, of course, are limited by the guarantees given by the Constitution, particularly the First Amendment guarantees of free speech.

The amendment is clearly superfluous verbiage and unnecessary legislation. Moreover, it appears to represent Congressional action against the employees of one agency with employees serving abroad, while saying nothing about employees of other agencies and departments with extensive international operations such as the Department of State, A.I.D. and U.S.I.A. Because the Peace Corps is so closely identified with youth—in a way the other agencies are not—this amendment can only be construed as a slap at dissent among our young people.

BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Rosenthal is a member of Congress from the Eighth District, New York.

On USIA

It is important in the public interest to bring out certain facts and a point of view which Bruce J. Oudes regrettably omitted in his interesting and timely article "The Great Wind Machine" (June).

Certainly we agree with Mr. Oudes' critical evaluation of the faulty strategy and tactics of the USIA, as presently conducted. But there is no more reason to abolish it than to abolish medicine or law, because of an inadequate practitioner. Experts drawn from the fields of government, education and communications, who participated in a one-day conference on the case for reappraisal of U.S. overseas information policies and programs, held at the Overseas Press Club last October, confirmed many of Mr. Oudes' criticisms about USIA. With one exception, however, they supported the case for its reappraisal by a commission of experts, not its abolition. They expressed the belief that the agency would fill a useful necessary function, if administered in accord with present-day knowledge of the art and science of communication.

Disinterested social scientists have stressed the need for such an organization. The attitudes of one people towards another, they have found, are often based on simplistic notions, reinforced by prejudice, false stereotypes and ignorance. To allow this situation to remain,

they state, is dangerous to our national welfare, since it may bring about actions of other peoples towards us, which are based on illusion instead of reality. Only through a continuing activity aimed to correct this situation can we assure sound relations between us and other people.

Unfortunately, contrary to Mr. Oudes' statement, we cannot depend on the routine channels of mass communication between countries for a balanced picture. Mass media in most countries, whether privately or government owned, usually appeal to existing stereotypes, whether true or false.

EDWARD L. BERNAYS
Cambridge, Mass.

Mr. Bernays is chairman of the Emergency Committee for a Reappraisal of United States Overseas Information Policies and Programs.

The author, Bruce J. Oudes, replies:

Of course the media do less than a perfect job of describing America, even if one assumes that they, or anyone else, know the difference between "illusion" and "reality." But the history of USIA is abundant proof that whatever the media do poorly, the government does worse.

Besides, Mr. Bernays' letter reads like an agency product. That's one more reason to abolish the place.

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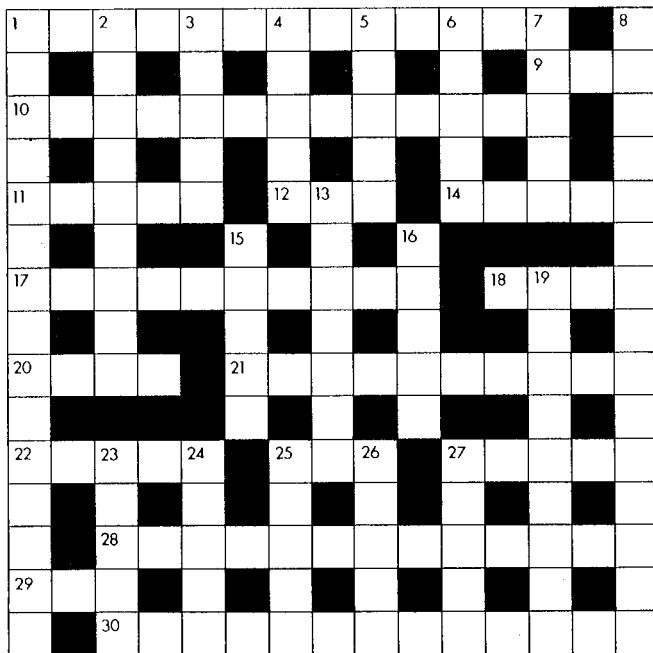
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The Political Puzzle

by John Barclay



Across

1. Predecessor backs in-to chief. (6,1,6)
9. Venerable lie in New Haven. (3)
10. Much of what nine hear is large name glut. (5,8)
11. Five less will make it void of sense. (5)
12. Long range thinking? (3)
14. In this nine you may be bored. (5)
17. Habitat for queen at 16. (10)
18. It can be very sticky here. (1,3)
20. Defense Department shut out, becomes extinct. (4)
21. Shellfish king. (6,4)
22. A lie, no tease, may win office in California. (5)
25. The Twentieth Cen-

ture in short. (3)

27. Take as bet to cook or sew. (5)
28. He can reach jail nuts from the bench. (7,6)
29. The Khan is in again. (3)
30. Rookie Minnesota Twin makes first nine. (5,8)

Down

1. Mail would go sail, if his revolution came about. (7,1,7)
2. Back to the barbecue as the girl leer'd. (9)
3. With a cleat, he is brilliant. (5)
4. Weird find at one end of lake. (5)
5. In pursuit of power, get it out. (5)
6. These require more than a gander. (5)

7. Use inert process to conserve. (5)
8. One of the nine will jam barn. (7,1,7)
13. Another demonstrates cooking skill. (7)
15. Good place to talk turkey? (They can mark you up!) (5)
16. No solace in this gismo, keep looking elsewhere for health. (5)
19. Ride Jule's mare to the Wailing Wall. (9)
23. Hornsby was a prince with the Indians. (5)
24. So her fireman is at times. (5)
25. Revolution in Italy deports Pope. (5)
26. Fifty obscene men come up to live here. (5)
27. High point of European trip comes at the end. (5)

The numbers indicate the number of letters and words, e.g., (2,3) means a two-letter word followed by a three-letter word. Groups of letters, e.g., USA, are treated as one word. Answers to this month's puzzle will appear in the next issue. Answers to last month's puzzle are on page 53