

the opinion page

The Voice-Jeffersonian

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The new jetport plan: How would it fit an official growth policy?

True believers in the religion of Progress, baptised as they are with waters of holy growth, must have hailed the headline on the Sept. 1 Courier-Journal editorial: "The jetport: Now the question is whether to stop growing."

Not even the Louisville and Jefferson County Air Board's site evaluation committee has suggested the issue is that simple. The committee found "growth is inevitable in this dynamic area" and recommended doing something now about future air transport needs. But it did not suggest the alternative is to "stop growing."

In fact, when he presented the site committee report this week, Dr. Robert S. Levy went out of his way to discuss growth. It is time, he said, to develop an official community policy on growth. The implication was that if one existed now, it might have an important effect on the jetport plan.

One need not reject the committee's prediction of inevitable growth to reject the jetport scheme. To date no solid evidence has been presented showing we need the jetport. And there are very strong signs the people of this region do not favor the sort of growth which would produce such a need. The death of the 10-lane Watterson Expressway plan symbolizes total public disenchantment with the theology of More Is Better.

The Air Board is very proud of its new opinion poll showing people here think air transport is a regional problem and airports should be developed when the need exists. But the Air Board has not asked the people what sort of region they really want. Were it to do so, it almost certainly would find people with far more concern for preserving a livable environment than for building a new jetport.

The people of this area do not want to "stop growing." But they do want the inevitable growth to be more tightly controlled than it has been. They are beginning to learn that one way to control growth is to say "no" to the highway lobby. Another is to take control of utility line locations away from private industry and developer-dominated commissions and put it in the hands of planners who operate in public. Another is to develop enforceable land use plans which insulate green belts and farm lands from the economic pressures which have blighted them in the past. Another is to stand solidly in the way of the jetport promoters and say: "Sorry, your plan is not in keeping with our vision of a more beautiful tomorrow. We are not going to let our region become one massive slurb. Your jetport will not be necessary or desirable."

The point is not that the jetport is a bad idea. The point is that the jetport is essential to and will encourage a level of growth which many people -- perhaps most people -- honestly do not want. What they do want is what an official growth policy could produce: a public framework within which the impact of a jetport or other big project could be judged -- and then accepted, rejected or modified. As it is, our growth often is the result of haphazard judgement, selfish behavior and public apathy.

Advocates of the jetport proposal can be expected to insist growth is inevitable and the jetport land purchase therefore is essential. Logic requires one to accept the first assertion. But rational man need not accept the jetport. If we want, and if we will work at it, we can limit the pace and direction of our growth enough to find a much more livable alternative.

To do that, we must vigorously pursue Dr. Levy's suggestion of an official growth policy.

The Gaslight Festival

Town Square in Jefferstown will alter its everyday small town activity on Saturday, and transform into a flurry of fun. There will be something for everyone at the fourth annual Gaslight Festival, sponsored by the Jefferstown Chamber of Commerce.

Visitors will witness a startling display of arts and crafts, the product of talented area artists.

For those interested in "junkie," a giant flea market will provide a vast array. A live jug band will entertain with old-time music, and square dancers will fill the streets with do-si-dos during the evening.

The Jefferstown High School JROTC unit, winner of many awards for excellence, will con-

duct the official festival flag raising, and city officials will welcome the crowd. Don't be surprised if just about every office-seeker in the area is present to shake hands.

During the afternoon, 17 bands from throughout the state will march through the heart of Town Square as the international award-winning Jefferstown High School Marching Chargers host their annual Invitational Band Contest and Parade.

This is the time each year when Jefferstown citizens pull together for a common cause. Civic groups, churches, schools and the everyday citizen work long hours preparing for the event. They are proud of their city, and produce something for young and old to see and enjoy.

Thanks, and then some

In our wildest dreams we never had imagined being dependent on the actions of the Canadian Parliament for the ability to produce this paper, The Voice-Jeffersonian.

But there we were last week, glued to the television, watching the demonstrators try to prevent Parliament from ending the national railway strike and wondering how it all would end. For better or worse at that point we were dependent on those railroad workers for the paper we intend to produce next week. A month's newspaper supply was sitting in a strike-bound boxcar somewhere near a Canadian paper mill.

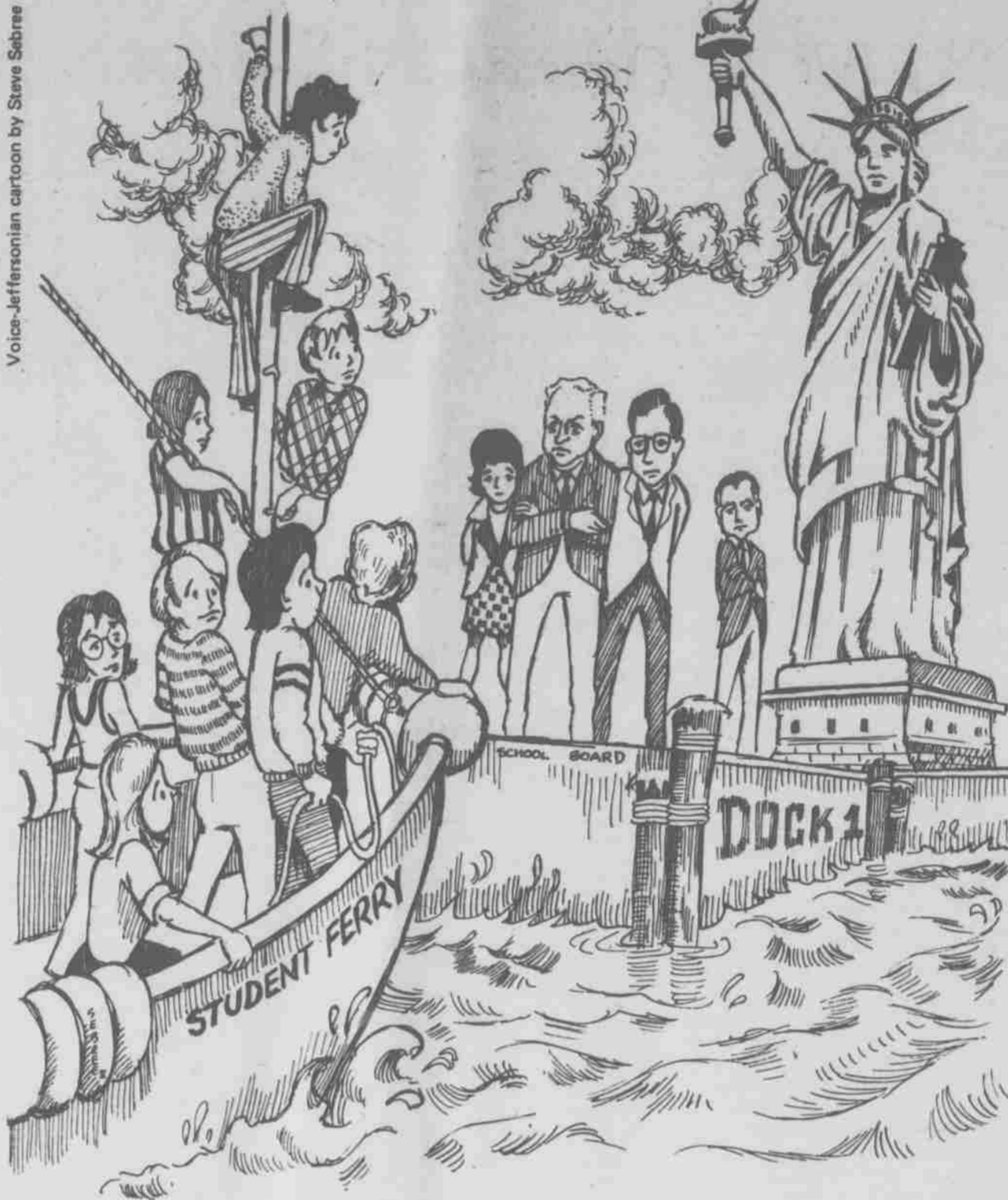
In the meantime, we learned to appreciate once again the meaning of friendship in the newspaper printing business. Our only recourse at the time was to borrow enough paper to get by. And that meant we had to turn

to others in the business, some of whom are vigorous competitors for both advertising and printing, and ask them for help.

In every case, the response was a genuine concern and willingness to do anything they could. Several publishers could do nothing; they, too, were looking for paper, or had already promised to do jobs for other printers who were worse off than we. But those who could, did help. Seven rolls of paper came from Newspapers, Inc. in Shelbyville; another 20 came from the Frankfort State Journal.

Now that the railroad is running again, there is new confidence we can muddle through what seems to be a long-term newsprint shortage. And as we do, we are especially thankful for the generous, cooperative spirit we have seen the shortage produce among our fellow Kentucky and Indiana publishers.

Voice-Jeffersonian cartoon by Steve Sebire



'Maybe they figure it's private property.'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Scores VanHoose on 'Rights'

Dear Editor:

The following letter has been sent to Richard VanHoose, Superintendent of Schools.

My husband and I have read and discussed the Seneca students' proposed bill of rights, and Superintendent Richard VanHoose's quoted sharp reply to them (Voice-Jeffersonian, Aug. 30).

It seems entirely reasonable that students would want a voice and opinion in things that directly affect them in school, and a freedom of expression that we all are supposedly entitled to under our Constitution. I feel that students of all ages have some good ideas and should at least be heard and discussed.

Even our children, ages six and nine, have contributed ideas to our family plans and guidelines. They have also at times pointed out things that they thought were unfair and after giving them some thought, we found that they were right! Is there any human who knows all the answers so well that he is not subject for debate or possibly change? I know of none.

Another request that the students mentioned is that married or pregnant students have the same right to continue their education as others. It is most important that they do. Why should these two groups be singled out and denied their education? Both marriage and pregnancy are very normal states. Who decides upon the ones to attend school and who doesn't?

I suspect it is a group of men and women, along with the superintendent, who also went through school stifled and denied their voice of opinion, and are still afraid of speaking up. Or possibly they are afraid of losing their position if they disagree with their superior. It is very hard to discard some of the notions of growing up such as the old saying that "children are to be seen and not heard." This is obviously carried into adulthood with some people.

Mr. VanHoose was quoted as saying that "no student is going to tell me how to run a school." Sounds as if he's talking about a prison camp. I have to wonder if this was said out of pride or insecurity.

He stated also that the schools have a right to search lockers since they are the property of the schools. I disagree. Search the lockers now, and later it will be to search the minds. Since the taxpayers pay for the students to use school facilities, I feel that if there is enough suspicion that a locker needs to be raided, let the proper official secure a warrant and then conduct the search.

It appears that these students are also citizens and should be afforded the same rights as the rest of us. These are adults that are in high school, and if treated as such, I am sure they will act the part.

Almost daily, I read that a parent is bewildered that their "child" isn't a responsible adult, or that they are lazy, etc., etc.

I wonder how they are to achieve this responsibility if they don't get it in the homes and schools. These same kids are the ones who will be leading the nation some day and I hear their parents wondering how they will do it and their grandparents often saying they hope they won't be around to see it.

The one who is pushed through school with no responsibility or respect is usually the one who can't cope with the many problems that suddenly confront him in the adult world. Granted, respect is to be earned, but given some responsibility and duly carried out, respect will surely follow. They should be given a chance to prove themselves and this can't be done under a dictatorship.

If a committee of students could meet with the school board and discuss these proposed ideas with an understanding ear, we might all be surprised at the fine quality of students we have in the schools. Let them continue to submit their ideas and give them an opportunity for debate. If their ideas aren't accepted for one reason or another, please give them a reason for declining them.

I hope some day to have an opportunity to meet Mr. VanHoose. It will be my first encounter with a man who knows all the answers and is not subject to change.

Mrs. C. Johnson
2928 Nepperhan Road

MAZZOLI

Nixon's wrong; Congress is producing

By Romano L. Mazzoli
U.S. Congressman, Third District

In his August 15 speech to the nation, President Nixon made statements about Congress which, with all due respect, demand rebuttal.

The President said that "legislation vital to your health and well-being sits unattended on the Congressional calendar." He went on to assert "your elected representatives here in Washington ought to get on with jobs that need to be done."

I personally find these remarks rather curious, coming as they do in the midst of one of the most serious, thoughtful, arduous, and yes, productive Congressional sessions.

The fact of the matter is that the Watergate investigations have not cancelled daily House and Senate sessions. Really, with the exception of the seven Senators serving on the Ervin Committee, it's safe to say that the Watergate has not to any marked degree changed our work day nor distracted us.

Quite the contrary, Watergate has inspired Congress to assume greater responsibilities than it previously has and to come to grips with the profound and troubling questions which in recent years Congress has largely neglected.

Thorny questions

This 93rd Congress is asking such thorny questions as whether the President alone should be able to define national security, to decide when to bomb other nations or when personal and civil liberties can be violated on national security grounds.

Congress isn't asking these questions just for the sake of creating debate on political issues. We are trying to write thoughtful legislation which will define and affirm the proper Constitutional roles of the Executive and Legislative branches of government.

Already in 1973, Congress has reached substantial agreement on a "War Powers" bill. This will restore to Congress the responsibility for declaring wars, yet leave the President with sufficient flexibility to cope with any possible emergency.

Congress has acted in the practical, bread-and-butter areas as well. It has passed a major new farm policy act, a "break-through" highway act making funds available for mass transit, and a necessary liberalization of the minimum wage law. Also, Congress has taken legislative steps to establish new budgetary mechanisms which will require us to establish national spending priorities.

Credit to Nixon

President Nixon, on his questionable exercise of "impoundment" -- refusal to spend monies appropriated by Congress -- must, at least, be given credit for jolting Congress into an awareness that we can't go on proliferating Federal programs forever.

Credit is due again to the President for some of his budgetary proposals which have challenged the continuation of many popular -- sacrosanct -- programs. He has forced Congress to take some long and hard second looks at its pet projects.

I'm pleased to report Congress has picked up the gauntlet flung at our feet by the President.

We aren't going to agree with the President on all of the questions of national priority, but I believe we have been alerted to the need that priorities must be established.

Even the statistics (which I find to be a questionable standard of measurement) show the 93rd Congress has enacted more laws and been on the floor for more votes, in its first seven months than any Congress in recent history.

So, while it may be true, as President Nixon says, that some have spent too much time "wallowing in Watergate," I can vouch from personal experience -- and fatigue -- it hasn't been the Congress.

About letters. . .

We really want your letters. To insure that they are published in a timely fashion, we have two bits of advice. First, arrange for it to arrive no later than Monday morning of the week you want it published. Do not trust the mails to deliver your letter in one or two days. They sometimes fail. We have a mail slot in our office door for 24-hour delivery and urge you to use it.

Second, we do not normally publish anonymous letters, form letters or carbon copies of letters written to other media.

The letters column is for your use. Use it to compliment, criticize, wonder or comment.

'Don't infect my children'

Dear Editor:

I fully support the return to pure constitutionality for every citizen of this country -- including those under 18 -- illustrated by the Student Bill of Rights.

Our educational system has set up its own government containing legislative, judicial and executive branches without recourse or representation. The Student Bill of Rights gives representation back to the owners of the system -- the taxpayers.

Some feel the need for intra-school laws; the ones they have at home don't work . . . so play it where it lays. Don't infect my children with school laws

restricting them to another child's eccentricities.

Ann C. Fremd
mother of four aged 18 and under
325 Sherrin Avenue

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