

In our opinion

State needs porno laws

Even people who profess to take pornography in stride are revolted by so-called "kiddie porn" — films and photographs showing pre-pubescent children engaged in sexual acts with each other or with adults. Some of the children are as young as 3 years. And some of the adults are their parents. The very thought of it is depressing and sickening.

There is no way of telling how many American children have been involved in pornography. But Investigator Lloyd Martin of the Los Angeles Police Department estimates that 30,000 boys and girls are sexually exploited by adults in that city every year.

Martin arrived at his estimate by interviewing molestation victims, adult molesters, pimps, and pornography producers and distributors. "I would say that out of that 30,000, it would be very conservative to say that 25,000 have had their pictures made," he said.

But as our own region well knows, child pornography is by no means confined to the large cities that often are the destination of runaway youngsters. In rural Franklin County, Tenn., a defrocked Episcopal priest was sentenced June 3 to between 25 and 40 years in prison for having run a "house of boy prostitution" that supplied photographs of wayward youths engaged in homosexual acts to adult male "sponsors" across the country. One of the sponsors was Ann Arbor millionaire Francis Sheldon, who owns North Fox Island off Grand Traverse Bay, where acts of child prostitution and pornography reportedly took place. Sheldon and cohort Dyer Grossman are still at large and being sought as fugitives from justice.

The leading crusader against child pornography is Dr. Judianne Densen-Gerber, a New York psychiatrist. Densen-Gerber is president of Odyssey Institute Inc., an organization that treats young drug addicts, some of whom were victimized as children by pornographers.

"They are emotionally and spiritually murdered," she says. Testifying before the Crime Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee on May 23, Densen-Gerber acknowledged that efforts to suppress child pornography could run afoul of the First Amendment guarantee of free expression. However, she argued: "Common sense and maternal instinct tell me this goes way beyond free speech. Such conduct mediates children's spirits. They aren't consenting adults; they are children. The First Amendment isn't absolute."

Arizona, Minnesota and Tennessee already have adopted laws making it a felony to use minors in pornography, and similar measures are being considered in about two dozen additional states, including Michigan. Since the laws are aimed at curbing child abuse, their sponsors are confident that they will survive court scrutiny.

But even if child pornography were to disappear tomorrow, its legacy will be felt for years to come. Many of the young victims, unable to erase their emotional scars, will turn to lives of crime, drug addiction, or prostitution. The social and moral cost to the country is incalculable. Michigan should not hesitate in enacting its legislation. It's already too late for too many.

... so does nation

The national conscience is also being stirred by the revelations of homosexual pornography and prostitution of boys.

Legislation is now pending which would make it illegal to transport young males across state lines for the purpose of prostitution. A similar law protecting young girls has been on the books for years.

The need for such laws is tragic but cannot be ignored. The bill should be approved.

Letters to the editor

Juggernaut

To Fifteen Ducks, or Carriage By The Sand Trap.

A Mallard with thirteen babes on call, Did you think you could get them all, Across that broad stretch of highway? No, Jack wasn't with you yesterday. You weren't run down by a two-ton truck, but by a dame in a Red Juggernaut. Yesterday she picked off your mate, and yesterday was your fatal fall date.

The car behind had no excuse but plowed right in - - - - - plunged! Out! Nine babies splattered in your juice - - - - - Only four left! Why? No real excuse!

I mourn for the bystanders, those

lovely souls. They spilled over and stopped by the seventh hole.

I repeat. Not seeing them was no excuse. "But that have a license." A right to abuse.

A license to take a life? Life is to live, and to live is to care, or they wouldn't have children.

"They just wouldn't dare!" We're acquainted with another pair, talking things over, always on guard.

Strutting and preening in our back yard. Quacking and sharing in a loving way. "Come on, Lady. Let them live today!"

Wm. G. Holt
Willmarburg

Sore spot

The recent article published in the Record-Eagle about union sabotage hit a sore spot.

I'm a proud member of the International Association of Sheet Metal Workers'. Local 514, and it's pretty embarrassing to see such nonsense in a local newspaper. There are not any such instances that I know of that has been proven to be true.

It seems your newspaper might be non-union like so many other businesses in town which is OK by me, only it would seem that the employees of these places are not getting fair wages and compensation.

Construction jobs, union or non union are pretty much about the same price except that non union companies are getting bigger profits because they pay less wages. A skilled tradesman gets a fair wage for his work. A carpenter de-

ing the work of an electrician is not skilled labor. You see we have to be skilled to carry a card and licensed in that trade, otherwise a jack of all trades is a master of none.

In my opinion anybody not in the union are only cheating themselves out of a fair living.

Lets face it, my family is just as good as yours. We are working in a loving way. I might be able to afford it if I were working for \$1.50 per hour. After taxes and everyday expenses such as lights, gas, etc. there wouldn't be enough left for the proper balanced diet we all need. I would apologize to the union and their members.

Robert Wagner
Traverse City

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Friday, June 17, 1977

Jack Anderson



United Feature columnist

WASHINGTON — President Carter declared after taking office that he would never retreat from his but unequal stand on human rights. But he now is quietly asking Congress to weaken national policy on the human rights issue.

Carter received international acclaim for his moral battle against repressive regimes as he slashed American

military aid to Argentina, Uruguay and Ethiopia. Both conservatives and liberals in Congress applauded his actions, and the House quickly responded by cutting military aid to Nicaragua and the Philippines.

The House also passed a bill requiring American representatives at world lending institutions to vote against loans to countries that flagrantly violate human rights.

In the last few weeks, however, Carter's foreign policy advisers have been getting signals from abroad that the president may be pushing his human rights offensive too far. Consequently, Carter has had to backtrack from his aggressive stance.

On May 19, for instance, he met privately with a group of congressmen at the White House, and soon found himself under tough questioning

human rights by Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio.

As one of the participants recalls, Carter said that if Congress cut off funds to human rights violators, it "would seriously handcuff us in terms of our relationship with other countries."

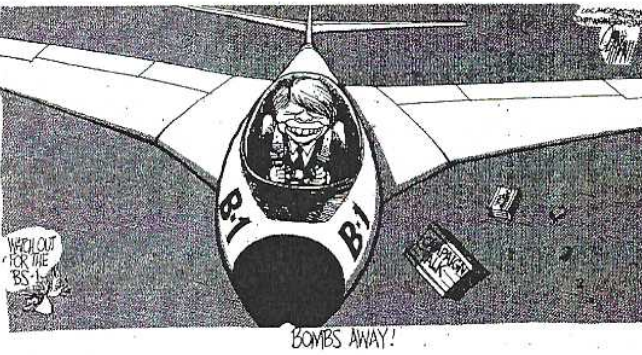
One high administration official argued forcefully that Carter had not wavered on the human rights issue, but conceded at the end of a long talk: "Let's face it, the problem is implementation. Carter is just as committed. He's just not as purist."

Footnote: Carter's opposition could kill the legislation, which is now stymied in the Senate, and bar international loans to repressive countries. The president believes he can more effectively influence other countries by retaining the option to personally oppose the loans.

WHO'S NEWS — With a stroke of the pen, Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps has lured over the responsibility for running her department to her undersecretary, Sidney Harman.

In a private memo to department heads, Kreps wrote: "For the moment, I have asked him (Harman) to take responsibility for running the show," with all that phrase implies.

Our sources confirm that Kreps is not really running the show at Commerce. But a department spokesman insisted she is making the policy decisions while delegating the administrative details to her second in command.



Vermont Register

A matter of ethics and patriotism



Wall Street Journal — DNS

Back in the summer of 1962 — and a long time ago it seems now — 12 American editors were offered a unique opportunity to visit the Soviet Union as guests of the Union of Soviet Journalists.

Although they were, as travelers always are in that strange land, sheltered by their communist hosts, they nonetheless saw more than most visitors. The group included, besides me, representatives of most of the major American newspapers.

When we returned after a journey of some 8,000 miles from Leningrad to Central Asia, we spent an afternoon with Ambassador Thompson sharing our impressions. Later a few of us were invited to visit President Kennedy, and all who would were asked to visit the State Department to talk with officials there.

I do not know what the others did but I spent more than an hour one morning with state department officials, especially interested in Soviet affairs, the group may have included, for all I know, someone from the CIA.

I also answered questions at the request of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress about economic conditions, as I saw them, in the Soviet Union.

All this personal reminiscence would be nothing more than a minor footnote to history except for the fact that there has lately been much public controversy about the propriety of journalists and others who may acquire foreign information "cooperating" with the CIA and similar government agencies.

Not long ago there was quite an uproar when it became known that a number of American foreign correspondents share such taboos of information as they may come by with the American mission in that country. It was argued, at least in some quarters, that this made them "spies," not journalists.

More recently there has been a flap at Brooklyn College because a political science professor there, whose special interest is research in terrorism, agreed to report to the CIA any interesting information he came across on a research trip to Europe. There are those at Brooklyn College who think he ought to be fired forthwith.

This raises an interesting philosophical question. If an American citizen traveling abroad acquires some information that might be useful to his government in understanding conditions in a foreign country, what should he do?

Should he share the information with those in his government to whom it may be useful? Or should he refuse?

It's not a question that arises from journalists or political scientists alone. A knowledgeable businessman traveling abroad may gather information about industrial production methods that would be highly useful in understanding economic development in that country. So might a banker about impending currency developments or an airplane pilot about the state of aeronautical technology.

Rarely is such information meaningful by itself. Put together with a mosaic of other information it might be very useful in understanding social, economic and political developments in the country.

William F. Buckley

English workers on a treadmill

Washington Star columnist.

LONDON — There are as always so many grounds to be gloomy, indeed to be sad. The indices are bag at every level. Yesterday an official government report divulged the unhappy news that the English working man, although he is earning 80 to 40 percent more than in 1974, has not improved his lot since that time, thanks to inflation and taxes. Although everyone appears to know that by the rules of progressive taxation, any pay rate is progressively taxed, there is a strange reluctance to adapt fiscal policy to this datum. The result is higher and higher wages without any increase in purchasing power.

Needless to say the middle class are especially hard hit inasmuch as where they dwell, the rise in the progressive rate is precipitous. The figures are also available here. The middle class manager who has hit the top of his ladder — let us say he manages a small plant — is a far worse off than 10 years ago. A man earning 10,000 pounds in 1967 is now earning 17,500. But the com-

position of tax and inflation has caused his take-home pay to diminish by one-third.

Those highly mobile members of the middle class who give way to despondency tend to increase their numbers, to move out. There are caulkers of glass among Rhodesian-baiters in Great Britain about the exodus of whites from Rhodesia. They are fleeing the terrorists. A greater percentage of British professional men have fled socialism than Rhodesian whites have fled Mau Mau. Although socialism does not threaten to rouse you in the middle of the night for the purpose of slaughtering you, it is there to tell you that, as a mildly productive member of society, you are a class enemy.

Among the critics of socialism in Great Britain there are those who fear that the very worst is conceivable. Mr. Robert Moss, the editor of the "Economist's" "Foreign Report," gives Britain about a 50 percent chance of rejecting communism. This must be

carefully understood. What could happen in Great Britain is the kind of thing Karl Marx specifically envisioned in the Manifesto. The principal goal of Marxism is the elimination of private property. Property is substantially eliminated when it is taxed at levels as high as 90%, and when the government in power is pledged to a 100% inheritance tax. Beyond that, Marx called for the nationalization of industries, the confiscation of all the property of those who seek to emigrate, and abolition of private schools, programs that are substantially in force or prospectively in force under the current government.

Others will tell you that, somewhere along the line, the British government is going to run into the great impeder that defies the schematic ideology of Marx. To wit, the British character. It is a phenomenon that the Communist Party makes absolutely no headway among the voters. Last time around, the Communists got less than one-half of one percent of the vote.

But the government is, in fact, run by a fairly small group of trade unionists, a thin which group in Marxist ideology are the most represented. The 365 top executives of the 33 leading British trade unions represent constituencies which voted only 49% for Labour at the last election. Twenty-five percent voted Conservative, 10% Liberal. But every last one of those executives is a socialist who supports the Labour government or, if he criticizes it, does so on the grounds that it is excessively moderate. Under the circumstances one might compare the democratic composition of Great Britain to a corporate holding company. If you can get 51% of the tiny executive committee of the Trade Union Congress, you can control a country of 50 million people.

To be sure, even as the stockholders can revolt right up the line, it is hypothetically possible that the voters can send the socialist elitists packing. But there is the awful fear of a confrontation with the theoretical answer in power. For a vested interest like the trade unions up against the parliament of the people, and the vested interest is supposed to submit. But will it?

That is the question many people are pondering. An vague conservative desire not to test that final question results in putting off the day of the confrontation, waiting, with progressive patience, for the inevitable. That is supposed to be the providential oil in the North Sea, provided by a God in which fewer and fewer Britishmen believe, discovered by private enterprises, which are progressively the explicit enemy of the ruling class. The oil will begin to flow in about a year, and perhaps it will indicate the ultimate resource, the British character.

DOONESBURY



by Garry Trudeau

