

Sentenced

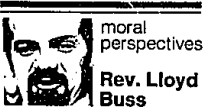
John Gnuu Jr., 56, Bloomfield Hills public relations businessman, was sentenced in U.S. District Court in Washington to three years in prison and fined \$10,000 for his role in a kick-back scheme to steer Postal Service contracts to his clients. Judge George Roverscomb said Gnuu has "the character to survive this type of stress." Gnuu got concurrent terms of three years for conspiracy and two years for making an illegal payoff to a high postal official. He has until Feb. 1 to report to prison authorities. Meanwhile, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners rejected a resolution to investigate Gnuu's activities as a member of the county Road Commission.



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Loss of faith means no peace

IT IS 733 B.C. The Kingdom of Judah is being threatened by Israel and Syria. Judah allies herself with Assyria. Isaiah, the prophet, speaks vigorously against this alliance and warns King Ahaz: "If your faith in God is not firm, your throne will not be firm." It is 1986 A.D. The United States is being threatened by Russia's overtures, perceived and actual, in the Middle East. The United States traffics in arms to build up opposition against the Russians.



Rev. Lloyd Buss

The similarities are obvious. So is the difference. Where are the prophets to warn against the trafficking in arms? Where are the prophets to remind the United States that "if your faith in God is not firm your leadership will not be firm?"

FAITH IN GOD has always featured specific actions. What person of faith would ever forget the admonition of Micah: "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" The definition of religion in the New Testament is equally pointed: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions and to keep oneself unstained from the world" (James 1:27).

To those who would traffic in arms, the admonitions would be equally clear: "Those who take up the sword are destroyed by the sword" (Matthew 26:52). Scripture did not try to distinguish between those who use the sword without approval of their superiors and those who have it.

When does a nation lose faith? When it no longer remembers what faith includes? Or when it no longer believes that faith can abide in the days of trouble?

REGARDLESS, there came a time in our history when we lost faith. We can spend from now until the next century trying to fix blame, but the fact remains that the United States sold arms to Iran when we said that we were not doing so. Instead of acting out the faith we claim in heritage and commitment, we chose another way.

There are countless other ways for one nation to reach out to another than through the sale of arms. In the face of natural catastrophes, we know exactly what to do. And even in the face of wars' devastations, we have not always ignored the essential features of mercy and kindness. Care of the wounded and maimed, reconstruction of property and organization for life beyond battle could have been the beginning of a new experience of care and regard.

THE MONEY spent on the military machines of the United States and the Soviet Union could buy 800,000 schools or homes for 30 million people.

At a rate of \$1 million per minute needed to keep the military machines running, in 10 hours the United States and the Soviet Union could feed the world and, in a mere four hours of spending, eradicate malaria. The cost of one fighter plane would inoculate 3 million children against major childhood diseases.

Our faith in God was not firm and our leadership was insecure. A people have lost their way. The world suffers.

Car-tree crash site: winding, local road

Only 2 percent of Michigan traffic accidents involve trees. But 11 percent of the fatalities are car-tree crashes, a state official said.

Andrew Ziegler, a landscape architect for the Michigan Department of Transportation, said that based on a recent study of 500 vehicle-tree accidents the typical accident occurs under the following conditions:

- The road is local and rural (84 percent of deaths) rather than a state-federal road and is winding rather than straight. Typically it curves left, and the driver leaves the road at the outside of the curve.
- The driver is typically male, 20 to 25 years old, driving faster than the speed limit and has been drinking. "Drinking is a common ingredient," he said.
- The time is between 2 and 4 a.m. Friday or Saturday (two-thirds

of accidents occur at these hours) and happens more often in winter than summer, apparently because of shorter periods of daylight.

Ziegler, speaking to a Michigan Institute of Traffic Engineers workshop in Plymouth, urged officials to set a system of priorities for dealing with problems. He said there isn't enough money to deal with all hazards.

He said possible solutions include (in rising order of cost): more road signs, speed reduction signs, wider shoulders, guard rails, tree removals and road redesigns.

Don't be too quick to advocate cutting trees, he cautioned, because local residents are vocal in pointing out that trees have historical, environmental and erosion control values.

Dickerson heads GOP

Larry D. Dickerson, a Farmington Hills executive, is the new chairman of the Republican Committee of Oakland County, succeeding Joe Esselberg. Dickerson was elected by the county GOP executive committee.

He is director of marketing for D.P. Corporate Services, Inc., of Livonia. Previously he was finance

director of the Oakland County Republican Committee and a staff member for the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

Other officers are: Lyn Ribbits of Birmingham, vice chair; Jerry Kosmowsky of Orchard Lake, treasurer; and Fran Blass of Waterford, secretary.

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