



OBSERVATION POINT

Spiro's Wise Words

By Philip H. Power

Well, I guess it's my turn to eat crow.

Up to now, I had harbored the opinion that Vice President Spiro Agnew was a positive menace, a man about whom little if anything good could be said.

But recently I read through a speech he gave earlier this month to the National Alliance of Businessmen in Washington.

He had some remarkably sensible things to say to us suburbanites.

"UNFORTUNATELY, too few persons have recognized the need or demonstrated the willingness to participate in comprehensive metropolitan approaches to the problems in our cities," said Mr. Agnew.

"The suburban dweller who turns his back on city problems and claims that he should not financially contribute to their solution is closing his eyes to the direct relationship between the economic viability of his county and the city. All of the profitable beltway industries and the dramatic mercantile growth in urban counties can be attributed to their positioning around the city hub.

"Therefore, there is an interdependence and an obligation to the city that must be faced by the suburban dweller whether or not he works inside or outside that city. The cities have problems, but they are everybody's problems.

"THERE HAS BEEN the assumption on the part of many that because the primary problems of race and poverty are found in the ghettos of urban America, the solutions to these problems must also be found there," the vice president continued.

"These ghetto-oriented programs tend to ignore the geographic distribution of resources throughout metropolitan regions. Resources needed to solve the urban poverty problem -- land,

money and jobs -- are presently in scarce supply in the inner cities. They exist in substantial supply in suburban areas but are not being sufficiently utilized in solving inner-city problems.

"Ghetto-oriented programs, by their exclusive concern with solving problems within inner cities, are not taking advantage of these suburban and urban fringe resources. As a result, ghetto residents are denied the income gains and improvements in housing quality that would result from freer access to suburban jobs and land."

MR. AGNEW is making a great deal of sense.

There are plenty of examples of suburbanites trying to help the inner city in various humanitarian ways. A team of high school students from Livonia has spent many weekends helping rehabilitate homes in ghetto Detroit. Churches in Farmington and

Southfield have had a number of programs bringing volunteer help to the inner city.

But the real point the vice president is making is that all these programs, good as they may be, ignore a central part of the equation: economics.

I am unaware of suburban businesses helping inner-city businessmen to get started. Suburban businesses do employ inner city residents, but the flow is usually construed to be of labor from the city to the suburbs. For a day, and then back to the city. Suburban money and suburban land are almost totally used in the suburbs and not in the inner city.

We have closed our eyes too long to the need for real economic cooperation with the inner city. As Mr. Agnew says, "The cities have problems, but they are everybody's problems."

We need more thinking like that.

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R.T. Thompson writes

Northville Seeks Answers To Classes Year-Round

There has been considerable talk but little action in Western Wayne County on the topic of year-round classes in schools.

NORTHVILLE'S BOARD voted unanimously a week ago to put the year-round school concept to an advisory vote of electors on June 8.

You can bet your last dollar that the outcome will have the attention of school boards in all sections of the state. Many have thought of such action but none, up to Northville had the intentional fortitude to actually ask the voters what they thought.

School Supt. Roland Spear recommended the poll noting that only 30% of parents of school age children have been surveyed. He informed the trustees that such a vote would give the remainder an opportunity to express an opinion.

It will also give parents without children in school a way to record their feelings.

The vote is strictly advisory and informative to the trustees. They will have to make the final decision whether to or whether not to implement year-round school in the district.

THE BOARD WAS quick to point-out that it is "not committed to year-round classes nor is it endorsing the concept. It is only endorsing a study made possible by the \$19,565 grant received from the state legislature."

But the big thing is that

Northville is taking a forward step in a concept that may well become part of the school programs in most sections.

Practically every school board in this area has talked about year-round classes but none has allowed the topic to get out of the talking stage.

There have been studies but all have been inconclusive for the simple reason that none has reached all of the parents.

Northville's action in effect is asking parents to tell the school board what they think of the concept through the use of the ballot.

It will be interesting to see how the vote goes. The results

should provide all communities in the area with something to think about.

Past studies, all on a minor scale, have brought back such objections as difference of vacation dates -- a child may be in school when his parents have to take the summer vacation.

Then there's the matter of finding teachers who would be willing to work in the summer and then take a semester off during the winter.

And the constant problem of financing.

Perhaps many of the answers will come when the final tally is made in Northville.

Tongue In Cheek (April 1) Endorsement

Carswell Is Man Of Destiny

The U. S. Senate should confirm the Hon. Harold Carswell's nomination to the U. S. Supreme Court quickly to put an end to attempts to undermine our nation's system of justice.

Carswell's chief qualification for associate justice on the Supreme Court is the fact that 50% of his decisions as a circuit judge in Florida have been overturned by higher courts.

Furthermore, two of the present liberals on the Supreme Court ought to resign immedi-

ately to allow President Nixon to appoint George Wallace and Lester Maddox as replacements.

Once the court is packed properly, there won't be any more of this nonsense of the Supreme Court reversing half of the judicial decisions made in Florida.

How can we expect our young people to respect the law when the highest court in our land destroys half of the judicial monuments built by such a fine jurist as Harold Carswell?

It's no wonder our young buck the system when the Supreme

ON THE FACE OF IT—HE'S CUTTING OFF HIS NOSE



Tim Richard writes

Has Trustee Boswell Taken Wrong Approach?

Jim Boswell did everything but roll on the floor and kick the trustee.

Boswell, you'll recall, is the man elected to represent Livonia School District on the board of trustees at Schoolcraft College. There are many, many things he doesn't like about the college and his job.

Last week, as soon as the board meeting began, Boswell grandly called the make-up of the board "illegal and unconstitutional." He said he was afraid of taking part in an illegal activity if he continued to take part in the board meeting.

He announced he would seek a court order restraining the board from acting until it is reappointed on a "one man, one vote" basis.

With this, Boswell stalked out of the Schoolcraft board meeting barely five minutes after it started. The board conducted its business without him.

NOW, THE MAN has a case, in this writer's opinion, for believing the Schoolcraft board is malapportioned. Livonia School District has about half the children in the entire college district but gets only one of five assigned votes—the same as Northville and Clarenceville, (which have only 6 or 7% apiece).

And now that the U. S. Supreme Court has applied the "one man, one vote" doctrine to two-year college districts, there is excellent reason to question the Schoolcraft voting districts. (So far, Observer Newspapers has been alone in pointing out the implications of the high court decision to the local area.)

Trustee Boswell, however, seems to be taking all the wrong steps to correct the problem.

FIRST OF ALL, it is irresponsible for him to seek—and it would be irresponsible for any court to issue—a restraining order against the college board of trustees. The work of the board must go on. It would be better for that work to be done by a malapportioned board than for it not to be done at all.

Second, it's difficult to see how Boswell, as an individual trustee, could be liable for any illegal activity if he stayed at the board meeting and continued to vote. What's more, he is unilaterally trying to declare his fellow board members guilty of a crime before a state court has convicted them.

Third, he deprives the Schoolcraft board of whatever wisdom he may possess by picking up his marbles and walking out like a peevish child.

Fourth, and most importantly, the man who insists that Livonia School District is under-represented is morally guilty of hurting that district by failing to give it any representation at all. He hurts rather than helps Livonia by walking out.

THE LAST incident is part of a pattern of behavior for Trustee Boswell. He has a habit of failing to attend board meetings and sulking when he doesn't get his own way.

He is a poor trustee, and it's unfortunate that his term doesn't end until June of 1971.

DISSENT

View points expressed in DISSENT do not necessarily reflect those of Observer Newspapers Inc., but are presented in the belief that publication of all segments of thought on a public issue is a prerequisite to understanding and progress.

By Dr. George Denolan
Redford Township

The article "These are the Patterns for a Child's Growth" printed in the Wayne's Section in the Observer newspapers aroused my professional curiosity and ire when I read. Thus I was prompted to write this editorial in order to clarify several misconceptions which could easily betray the lay public.

This article dealt with the hope offered by the use of the Doman-Delacato patterning theory for the treatment of "brain-injured children" who were unable to sit up at three years of age, walk or talk.

The Doman-Delacato technique is essentially called "patterning." By patterning these therapists hope to induce mental ability and muscular coordination via extensive physiotherapy. This treatment requires both professional and lay people to exercise so-called "brain damaged" children through the normal growth and development sequence.

WITH THOSE REMARKS serving as an introduction, I want to speak frankly of the misconceptions which are rather apparent in the article.

This article categorically stated that "until recently there was no hope for them, (the brain injured children—parenthesis supplied by this writer) no place to go." They were faced with the prospect of staying at home as a tremendous burden on the parents or being placed in an institution. Now there is hope.

One of the cardinal sins in reporting is overstating the facts. Doman and Delacato have offered hope to thousands, but the reporter failed to delve beyond this point.

Time Magazine in its May 31, 1968 issue sounded the most devastating death knell to the Doman-Delacato proponents. "In no uncertain terms, 10 major medical and health organizations stated categorically that patterning was 'without merit' and chided its inventors for claiming cures without documentation."

To add further to this scientific irresponsibility, Doman and Delacato withdrew from a Government-sponsored study to test their theory. Therefore after more than 15 years' efforts to popularize their procedures, Doman and Delacato have neither submitted evidence nor participated in scientific investigation which would have substantiated their excessive claim of undocumented results.

WHAT ALSO BOTHERS me as a professional educator is the fact that the Plymouth school district is seriously studying the Doman-Delacato method.

This is especially appalling when both the Wayne County Training School and the Hawthorn Center for more than 25 years have been staffed by experts in the study of the brain-injured and the other behavioral problem children.

How can we deny Drs. Straus, Lehtinen and Rabinovitch?

Another important misconception is related to the phrase "brain-damaged." Professionals working with children have observed truly brain-damaged children functioning much like their normal peers.

On the other hand, a small segment of the normal children have been exhibiting certain symptoms of the so-called "brain-damaged." Then there are, of course, brain-injured children who have various social, mental, and motor coordination problems.

Thus, the labeling of children's behavior as being "brain-damaged" requires concurrent confirmation from several experts. The public should be aware of this difficulty in diagnosing behavior and its causal relationship to some deficit or damage.

For the family with a truly brain-injured child, it is highly unethical to induce hope through certain motor coordination patterning exercises as Doman and Delacato's. Their extensive writings in popular magazines of the early 1960's were filled with much rhetoric and almost no results.

The reader is also cautioned by the commercialization of this Philadelphia team of physiotherapist and psychologist, Doman and Delacato, in the area of parents helping their children become geniuses. These men have special materials and programs for parents to teach an infant to read and other designs for developing an Einstein at home.

IN CONCLUSION, the Doman-Delacato patterning theory remains merely a theory without scientific results. It was the intent of this writer to awaken the lay public to certain facts.

Parents with a not-so-normal child at home may seek quick and easy solutions to their child's problems through the Doman-Delacato technique should be very cautious.

As a professional educator, I believe it is my responsibility to inform parents and the general public about so-called experts who fail to substantiate their claims. While generating hope to parents of handicapped children, this unreliable element operates just within the bounds of the law.

Without being held accountable for their dealings with people who need delicate handling and expert advice and help, these purveyors of empty theories of "cure" must be brought to the public's attention.

Let sleeping dogs lie...time (Magazine) has sounded the last significant note on this subject.

EMORY DANIELS