

Readers Express Views On Controversial Topics

Raps Pay Boost

EDITOR:

I would like to comment on the action of the Farmington Board of Education in boosting the salary of School Superintendent Dr. Roderick J. Smith. Dr. Smith was hired last year with a three-year contract calling for \$22,000 for the first year; \$23,000 this year; and \$24,000 next year. The Board of Education has moved to increase these wages to \$24,000 this year and \$25,000 next year. Why was he given another raise before the end of his contract? We hired him to do a good job so that is not a good reason. The school teachers' raise was 10 per cent but that is on salaries much smaller than \$22,000.

When did a school teacher get a raise before the signing of a new contract? There was

a raise written into the contract and that should have been followed. This additional raise is not justified.

When the school board asked the taxpayers for more money it didn't tell us it was going to play Santa Claus with it. Mr. (John) Washburn (president of the board) should use his own money for such giveaway programs.

I heartily disapprove of this action and am disappointed in the school board. They are to be guardians of the tax dollar and direct it to give my children the best possible education, not to butter up a man who is just doing what he is paid to do—a good job.

LEONARD WEEMS
Farmington

Are Guns A Must?

EDITOR:

I read Robert Selwa's anti-gun editorial in the Sept. 11 issue and I would like to know how many millions of crimes that would have been committed were not because of the deterrent effect of guns? Criminals take what they want where they can get it the easiest. They don't want to face a gun, and guns are the greatest deterrent to crime that is known.

Shutters Accent

Kitchen Counter

A fashionable convenience feature of modern homes is a serving counter between the kitchen and dining room. It's a handy pass-through, and an ideal place for breakfast, after-school snacks, or late evening supper. Stock shutters of ponderosa pine, painted to blend with the room decor, or stained or varnished to enhance the wood grain, are often used over the counter to hide kitchen clutter and create an interesting wall accent when the counter is not in use.

Communists would very much like to see every gun in this country destroyed. We are in a shooting war with them and men who own guns and shoot them here are better shots when they are sent over there. We should register the Communists and forget about the guns.

Europeans are notorious for their anti-gun laws and twice in my lifetime, at the start of both World Wars, the English came here begging for guns.

The dream of anti-gun crusaders is to get rid of all guns but this cannot be at the present time because guns are vital to our national defense and are necessary for the protection of our property and our lives.

We do not need more Federal or state gun-control laws because it is wrong to punish law-abiding citizens as a result of criminals committing crimes with guns. When you disarm the law-abiding public you help the criminals.

Selwa asks in his editorial, when will we have strong and meaningful gun-control legislation at all levels, Federal, state and local? The answer is that we will have it when this country becomes a police state and when all our Constitutional rights are gone. To own a gun is one of the oldest American traditions and traditions die hard.

ARTHUR BENSMILLER
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Redford Township

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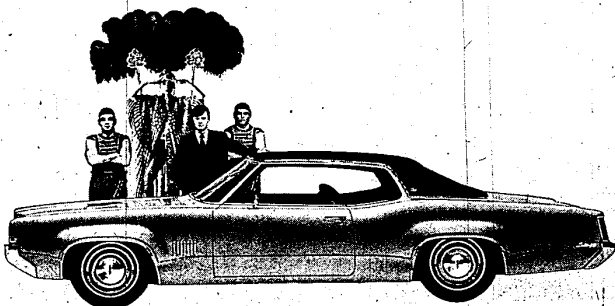
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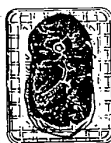
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