

Nader Vs. Gray: Paranoid Alternatives?



IT'S YOUR DECISION — That's what SCONA XVIII has been all about and was what plenary speaker Nicholas (St. Nick?) Johnson tried Thursday to get across to delegates to the annual affair.

Editor's Note: The following was written by Miss Gloria Duffy, a sophomore political science major at Occidental College in Los Angeles, Cal. A SCONA delegate, Miss Duffy is also the editor of her school paper, THE OCCIDENTAL.

Ralph Nader's world is peopled by devious lobbyists, evil attorneys and grafting politicians, freeloading at the taxpayer's expense, and controlling the individual through the citizen's abdication of his right to make his representatives accountable to him.

L. Patrick Gray's world is that of lawless men who will arise to threaten the security of the citizen if the society in any manner eases its restraints on the potential criminal.

Do these two men symbolize the alternative futures for our society? A choice between the hyper-aware supercritic and the authoritarian? Or are these men just polemic varieties of the same species—the paranoid?

SCONA XVIII is, essentially,

defining paranoia. Are we now at 1984, minus 11 and counting? Or do we actually suffer any abridgement of our right as free individuals as a result of the controls we have imposed upon ourselves to provide social order? For instance, can we name concrete, specific instances when we have felt un-free? Are we not more prosperous, mobile and secure at this time than in any other point in our history? Are we indulging in alarmism to hold a symposium on the threats to our individual and collective freedom?

If we agree that the single most important right of man is his liberty as an individual, then the questions we are asking are the most important of our era. And in answer to the question of whether we are unduly alarmed about the abridgement of our freedoms, SCONA can only conclude that the concern is justified.

The definitions of control itself are flexible. Professor Arthur Miller of the Harvard Law School detailed the dangers of the Justice Department keeping files not only

on criminals, but on citizens who have been involved in peaceful protest situations. Credit bureaus, national foundations, government bureaucracies and the Army all know a great deal more about the life of the individual than ever before.

A different sort of control is the shaping of the individual by his environment and his society—subtle, but nevertheless a control. And still another control—the limitation of the citizen's right to know the activities of its government through the media and the government itself. It is an irony that we are now more free than ever before in terms of possessing the wealth to buy leisure time, mobility and comfort, yet to obtain this freedom, we have become liable to more controls than ever before. And these are controls that not only have the potential of being turned against us; they already have been used in ways we never intended.

At the root of the question of how much control is necessary to preserve social cohesiveness and

protect the citizen, is the question of who determines the controls. The purpose of establishing a government is to provide a body not influenced by transitory whims and alarmism that can be objective enough to determine the degree of control necessary in a society at a given time. In our society, of course, the design was for a representative democracy, directly accountable to the public.

Due to technical developments, philosophical reconsiderations, the realization of our diversity as a nation and our fragmentation, that government has become unsatisfactory in its present form. Nader says that this is a result of our lack of concern for the actions of the government. After Watergate, ITT, the Vietnam War, we can no longer assume, as we have in the past, that the system will take care of itself, no matter what the degree of flexibility of our constitution.

Someone once devised a plan to make democracy truly representative. The federal government, he said, should purchase the state

of Kansas. There on the plains it should build a huge stadium covering the entire land area of the state, with a seat for every man, woman and child in the United States. Periodically, the citizens of the nation would come together to decide the policies of its government by majority vote. Such a plan would end the possibility of legislators being influenced by the lobbies—what lobby would be energetic enough to try to influence the majority of 200 million people? What's more, we would at last find some use for the state of Kansas.

Nader takes somewhat of the same approach. He advocates the politicization of the individual as a counter to the controls. But, if you have an entire nation of citizen activists, then that nation must have its contingent of activist Patrick Gray's, as well as it's activist Ralph Nader's. And they have fundamentally different principles.

This is the dilemma the SCONA meetings on the controlled society (See Nader vs. Gray, page 2)

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Blasts Nixon For Idea Stifling

Johnson Stresses Information Access

By LARRY MARSHALL
Staff Writer

The most un-American thing anybody can do in this country is stifle an idea, declared Federal Communications Commissioner Nicholas Johnson Thursday.

This concerns the ideology of democracy, Johnson told the

SCONA XVIII crowd, of the founding fathers when they drew up the Constitution. Yet the trend of the Nixon administration has been away from this.

"People need access to the ideas of other people, but President Richard Nixon has been trying to intimidate the news de-

partments of the three major networks to inhibit this," charged Johnson. "The battle over control of issues about which you'll remain ignorant and those to which you'll become informed is the number one political struggle in the world today."

A big part of making democracy work, is the concept of the First Amendment, guaranteeing the freedom of the press, Johnson said, "but we do not think about this much any more."

The media exposes people to these ideas and, in effect, helps them develop as people, Johnson said. It brings in other ideas and helps a person to develop toward his full potential.

"But there is only one institution with power left to comment on what is happening. The three network news companies are all we have left," he said. "And that is why the president has to get them out of the way."

"When there is a revolution in South America," Johnson commented, "what is the first thing seized — the radio station. And what do you think is the first thing Richard Nixon tried to do?"

Many of the government activities themselves are purposely handled so as to create little fanfare, noted the longish-haired commissioner, like releasing news of government action at a time when very little immediate critical attention can be paid to it.

Johnson cited the FCC action in granting Bell Telephone a 1.3 billion dollar rate increase on Thanksgiving Eve. "But you did not hear too much about that on television or read much about it in the papers, I suspect," he said.

"And this combination of where the money comes from and where the money goes explains an awful lot about what it is, you and I do not know, about what is going on in this country," Johnson commented.

In a presentation generally critical of the Nixon administration, Johnson mentioned many of the other less publicized actions of the administration.

One of these was the declaration by the Department of Agriculture that there would be no increase in the price of milk. But,

Johnson noted, a week later the milk people went to see Nixon and donated \$322,000 to his campaign. The next day they raised the price of milk \$700 million to the consumer.

"It becomes pretty hard for a President to represent the people when he has just conducted a nearly \$50 million campaign with money obtained from business," Johnson said.

Johnson also criticized Nixon's budget cuts. Some of the cuts deal with areas like milk for

school children, where the cut will save 72 million dollars and cutbacks in the hospital construction program that will save 90 million dollars.

In contrast to these cuts, Nixon has bailed out a company that was selling cyclamates by giving them 500 million dollars, Johnson charged. He has also continued the Maritime Subsidy Program, which Johnson formerly headed, and increased its allocation. This program had previously been proven economically useless, Johnson added.



NO NIXON LOYALIST by any sense of the word, SCONA XVIII speaker Nicholas Johnson held delegates spellbound by some of his prediction and anti-Nixon stories. The colorful speaker warned of Nixon's efforts to inhibit the flow of information.

FBI's Gray Creates A Controversy

By VICKIE ASHWILL
Staff Writer

The controversial acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, L. Patrick Gray III, lived up to his image in his speech Thursday by creating controversy.

SCONA delegates' and A&M students' reaction to the speech seemed to confirm the statement Alternative Features Service writer John Jakobson (The Battalion—Feb. 6) said earlier that the new director "has little to say on matters of great importance."

During the question-and-answer period Gray denied that he is politicizing the bureau and making it over to suit the Nixon administration. He admitted he was and is a Nixon loyalist, becoming a part of the Nixon staff in 1960.

The interim director said he had one instruction from President Nixon: "To keep the FBI free of political taint."

He denied that his 60,000 mile tour of 14 states during the Nixon campaign was politically oriented and it could be proven "that not one single speech was political." He maintained that his travels were to "become acquainted with FBI personnel of the nation, and to let them evaluate me."

"We, the American people, have continually sought ways and means to preserve that delicate balance between the security of the community and the freedom of the individual," began Gray in his speech entitled "FBI in a Free Society."

"We can control crime, have security against lawless men, protect our citizens and not become a 'controlled society' as long as people maintain interest in our free society, issues facing us and make efforts to become aware of the facts on each issue," continued Gray.

He maintained that "the people must be informed of the facts in order to exercise that power wisely in the national interest."

Based on his experience as acting director Gray said the FBI follows constitutional requirements and their performance is based on standards of public service.

"I have found no evidence at all that the FBI has investigated beyond its jurisdictional perimeters," said Gray.

"We are the principal investigative arm of the Department of Justice," he continued. "We are not policy makers. Even though we investigate . . . we do not prosecute the alleged violators."

He said the FBI is not a national police force nor is it an enemy of civil rights. Instead, it "is a vital force working against the type of controlled society we all so deeply detest."

"The very first page of the FBI's Handbook for Special Agents stresses the absolute necessity of protecting the constitutional rights of our citizenry."

Gray protested misunderstandings about the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and FBI use of electronic surveillances.

The NCIC computer and its nationwide terminals system is "in (See FBI's Gray, page 2)



L. Patrick Gray

Student Journalists Will Testify For Shield Laws

The National Student Lobby (NSL) has arranged for student journalists to testify before the U. S. Senate on legislation to prevent the government from forcing newsmen to reveal confidential information or the sources of such information.

Various Senators and Congressmen have introduced legislation following the U. S. Supreme Court's 5 to 4 decision June 29, 1972 that the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of the press, does not entitle newsmen to conceal their sources of information from grand juries.

At least four persons who refused to disclose their sources have been jailed as a result of last year's decision, and others have been arrested and are awaiting trial.

In 1966, the University of Oregon's Daily Emerald Editor Annette Buchanan became the first modern American journalist arrested for not revealing the source of a story.

Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.),

Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.), Cong. Jerome Waldie (D-Calif.) and Cong. Alphonzo Bell (R-Calif.) have introduced broad legislation to prevent such arrests in the future. The Cranston-Waldie bill was introduced at the request of the American Newspaper Publisher's Association and endorsed by Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism society. Cranston-Waldie offers unqualified protection from both state and federal governments. Cong. Alphonzo Bell has introduced a similar bill. Cong. Ed Mezvinski (D-Iowa), who defeated an incumbent with student votes last fall, believes unqualified bills such as these, which he supports, can not pass unless students and others put strong pressure on Congress.

The Hatfield bill protects newsmen in all Federal proceedings except libel cases. Hatfield, Cranston, Waldie and Bell intend for their bills to protect student journalists as well as established professionals. At NSL's suggestion Sen. Hatfield

will make this clear during the arguments for his bill.

Sen. Walter Mondale (D-Minn.) and Cong. Charles Whalen (R-Ohio) have introduced more qualified bills which prevent forced disclosure to Federal authorities except in libel cases or when a court believes the undisclosed information is (1) relevant to a specific crime, (2) unobtainable by other means, and (3) of compelling and overriding national interest. The bill's authors intend for all three circumstances to be met rarely.

Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.) has offered a bill similar to the Mondale-Whalen except that it would also force disclosure in a number of specific major criminal cases even if the information was not judged to be of overriding national interest.

Sen. Hatfield stated the vague "overriding national interest" provision makes the integrity of these bills fluctuate with the feelings of individual judges. "I doubt very much that it was in (See Student Journalists, page 2)

'Student Sandwich' To Be Televised

"Student Sandwich," a student-written, directed, and produced television show, will premier Monday at 9 p.m. on KAMU-TV, channel 15.

The Sandwich will feature several segments, including Asparagus on Parade, Rap Session, Between the Bread, and Political Open Face. Asparagus on Parade will feature well-known student leaders in the "hot seat." Questions from a studio audience will be directed to the student.

The rules are that he must answer only the question if he can, and not try to avoid the question or obfuscate the issue. If he fails to answer the question, tries to avoid it or otherwise indulges in confusion, he gets a buzzer sounded on him. The effect is much like a hot seat.

An award will be given in later shows to the most deserving student on various issues. Recipients of the award may be reminded of the Flying Fickle Finger of Fate Award presented on the popular "Laugh-In" series.

Rap Session is self-explanatory, but Between the Bread will deal with campus topics in an interview format. The first interview will be with George Future, a very unusual student who has some rather unusual ideas for the future of A&M. Future shows will feature such persons as drug addicts and those who seek them out, a computer programmer with some minority opinions which are rather startling to those unaccustomed to the intricacies of computer programming and other guests. A Betty Boop cartoon will be featured on some shows.

Political Open Face will feature interviews with prominent state and local people as well as those of national stature.

Gary Reger, PRO Chairman and overall coordinator of the project, encouraged any interested student to "come by the Student Program Office in the MSC or call 845-1515 and make an appointment to hear more about the details of the new show."

Student Injured, Wife Killed In Wreck

A Texas A&M student was critically injured and his wife killed in a two-car accident in Bryan Thursday night.

Larry Dwayne Phillips of Carthage, 22-year-old finance major, is in the intensive care unit at St. Joseph's Hospital.

His 22-year-old wife, Sandra, was killed instantly in the 8:15 p.m. accident at Texas Avenue and Carson.

The driver of the second vehicle, William Michael Vincik, received minor injuries. He is a junior majoring in wildlife science at TAMU.

Funeral arrangements for Mrs. Phillips pend at Callaway-Jones Funeral Home.

University National Bank "On the side of Texas A&M." Adv.

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