

Political Card-Marking Queried In Sharp Case

By RICK BROWN

What's this? John Mitchell testifying upon subpoena from Frank Sharp's lawyers? But the Watergate Hotel isn't in Sharpstown is it? Or did Frank Sharp own the Watergate? Maybe he put it up as collateral. I know, he's the one that loaned Nixon all that money for his houses. But why would the Justice Department

wiretap his phone if he is a friend of the President? Oh, I forget, Nixon taps everybody, even his own brother. He must have a new Sony or something.

Wagoner Carr, former Texas Attorney General, said shame on those nasty Republicans. He said the only reason he was prosecuted was because he was a Democrat, never mind the fact that he might be guilty,

that is beside the point.

But that doesn't sound right, Republicans prosecuting officials for being crooked. And besides, it's hardly fair prosecuting an attorney general for being crooked, it's all backwards. I keep forgetting though, that's the way it works nowadays, witness Mitchell. Why do they put possible crooks in charge of catching crooks anyway? Maybe it just take one to know one.

Patrick Gray is being subpoenaed, too. I didn't know he was a Texan. John Osorio, former state insurance commissioner, said Gray, Mitchell and Assistant U.S. Attorney General Peterson will prove that Osorio is just an innocent victim of cruel Republican persecution, which certainly wouldn't be

anything new. But wasn't Osorio found guilty in court? Was it an all-Republican court?

All these scandals are too confusing. Why can't those crooked Republicans stick with ITT and all that far-away stuff and leave Texas Democrats alone? Besides, we can't have any crooks in Texas government, we haven't had a Republican governor in a hundred years. All the crooks are Republicans, aren't they? I have even heard said that Texas has the best politicians money can buy. But how can one buy a politician? It must be possible.

I talked to some milkmen who bought a politician once, a real important one, too. Say it was the best money they ever spent.

And they ought to know about money, what with the way milk has been going up lately.

But Sharp doesn't own any milk. He owns a town. No, that's not right. He owns a bank. No, he doesn't even own that anymore, all those nasty crooks in Austin took it away from him.

If the above sounds vaguely reminiscent of the style of some Hollywood gossip columnists, I apologize. I hoped to capture the mood of the sometimes childish denunciations, accusations and excuses offered by officials caught in the act of being somewhat less than public spirited.

U.S. officials and former officials subpoenaed to testify on Justice Department handling of the Sharpstown scandals were brought to court by lawyers of Osorio and Carr. They requested the subpoenas in hopes that testimonies would indicate partisanship in the methods used by the U.S. Attorney General's office in handling the affair, specifically regarding immunity granted Sharp in return for testimony implicating his cohorts in the operations. That may be true.

The Justice Department should handle all cases on their legal, not political merits. If the present hearings do in fact indicate that political considerations figured heavily in the Sharpstown Bank prosecutions, then presumably the judgments could be reversed, not because the defendants are any less guilty, but because the Justice Department isn't all that saintly either. No one should be denied his constitutional rights, but two wrongs do not make a right and the guilty are not made innocent through their prosecutor's ineptitude.

Sharp said he was the biggest loser in the whole Sharpstown deal. But, that is a lie, of course. Because when we get crooks in government, at any level, the biggest loser, the real loser, is you, my fellow voter.

A Priority Question

By almost any standard one cares to use, America today possesses the highest standard of living the world has ever known. Yet, individuals have seemingly been lost somewhere in the assembly line of a mass-production society.

Involvement in Viet Nam has shaken up America's foreign policy, while resources have dwindled due to expanded defense and social welfare programs. It's beginning to look like it will be necessary to give up some environmental gains in order to keep up with soaring energy requirements.

A re-examination of our personal and national priorities is going to be necessary if we are to develop as a "whole" country in the future. This re-examination is the topic of this spring's nineteenth Student Conference on National Affairs.

In an effort to consider a broad spectrum of re-ordering priorities, SCONA workers have broken the topic down to two broad categories: individual and national priorities.

In our highly industrial society, it seems that Americans are beginning to shift away from mass-produced materialism toward stronger inter-personal relations. Many questions arise from this, such as will this trend lead to a revolutionary new life-style? Does a man owe society anything? If so, how great is his debt and how should he be forced to pay?

In the national outlook, student delegates will be analyzing America's gradual shift to isolationism in contrast to the pursuit of diplomatic relations with China and the USSR.

As military cutbacks continue and governmental restrictions on economic policy increase thought is being generated as to the effects these will have on our military posture and worsening market stability. High on the American priority list, of course, is the increased need for energy supplies and the threat this holds for an environment already in jeopardy.

These are the basic elements for roundtable discussions. No sweeping answers can be found for these issues in SCONA. But, it will give students an opportunity to hear and evaluate pertinent facts and opinions on each issue. Hopefully, they will leave the conference with a better understanding of the problems of our time.

Currently, SCONA committee members are screening interested A&M students for participation in the conference. Everyone has an opportunity to listen and some will get the privilege of being delegates. If you are interested in being a delegate, check by the MSC Student Programs Office for an application to be a delegate.

Requirements aren't that a person be "Student Government material" because it doesn't necessarily help in the interviews. What counts is the "burning desire" to take an active interest in the future of America.

Listen Up— Turnabout Deemed Fair Play For Corps Car Pranksters

Editor: Everybody understands the parking situation on campus and I am sure everyone feels something needs to be done about it. This includes the corps, civilian, faculty and staff alike. But I feel that bashing in the sides of cars, slashing tires, and letting the air out of peoples tires is certainly not the answer.

I am referring to cars with a KD parking sticker on them that have to resort to parking in the Corps parking lot because of lack of space . . .

I agree with the police that it would be a task to try and find out who the culprit is, but I feel that they are letting the problem go ignored. If no night patrolling or guarding or spot checking or

investigation is done it could lead to retaliation by Krueger-Dunn residents. Turn about is fair play, and I don't think the Corps would like that too much. Corps students wouldn't sit back and let happen to them what they are doing to

If the head yell leader can discuss accidents and the like at midnight yell practice, why doesn't he bring this problem out in the open? At least warn Krueger-Dunn residents of what may happen to their cars if nothing is going to be done about it.

If some students feel that the toothpick problem at Sbis is a problem (reference to letters to the Battalion), I really hope that students will realize that there are far more important problems

on this campus to be dealt with.

Mrs. Janice Kramer

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Editor: Re: Listen Up, Oct. 9, "I don't care what the peace queers think, I just want to kill some chinks."

When I was four years old, I would play army. I also had many nursery rhymes and songs. At one time there was a verse "Eeeny, meeny, minnie, mo" that I now realize was quite a horrible slam upon a certain race. At the time I sung it, I was ignorant to what I was saying.

Therefore, I ask for a little understanding, for some day those children will stop playing army and realize they too didn't really know what they were saying.

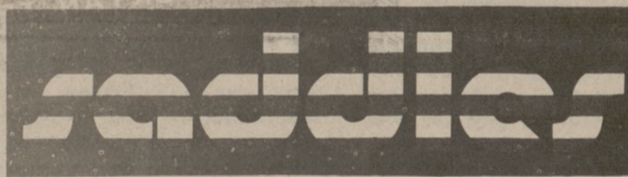
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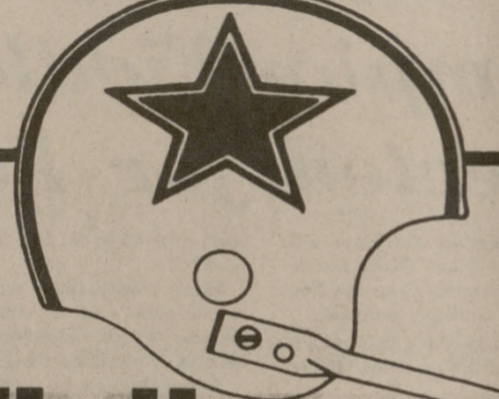
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Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc. New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

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The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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