

**Opinion page**  
**Nice going**

IT TAKES MONEY to make the mare go, as the old horse-race saying has it. It also takes money to stage the national high school rodeo, and its Tomah promoters have the needed long green now, thanks to a fund drive last week by radio stations WCOW-Sparta and WTMJ-Tomah that pledged \$45,000.

Tomah's bid to have the 1974 national event in Monroe County had been accepted a couple of years ago, perhaps because of the good play the Wisconsin high school rodeo at Richland Center has achieved (it drew a crowd of 15,000 Sunday).

But getting the money together for corrals and housing and whatnot was something else.

NOW THAT IS taken care of. And late next summer the bustling Tomah area will see more horseflesh, colorful young contestants from all over the country (and tourists) than any western Wisconsin community has had for quite a spell.

Time was when "rodeo" meant Cheyenne, Cody, Belle Fourche and other names in the near or far West that had kept the old cowboy traditions alive. But the state high school competition has done well in Wisconsin for 14 years now.

The big show at Tomah next year should give it a further boost.

**For an old sinner, no penitence**



John Mitchell  
an admission, but no plea for forgiveness

By NICK THIMMESCH  
WASHINGTON — John N. Mitchell, the former attorney general of our republic and thus one-time standard for law-and-order, now — thanks to the Sam Ervin Show — is revealed to be an Old Sinner.

Catholic priests who have heard thousands whisper their shortcomings in the confessional can tell you the difference between Young Sinners (afflicted with fresh, ripe guilt as they edge into life) and Old Sinners (almost incorrigible as they live wearily with sinful habits).

Mitchell told his sons more than he confessed them. He was not contrite, rather, he was proud of his expediency, a bit bored with it all, sardonically, even bitter. He parted company with the committee on the second day with the acid observation, "It is a great trial being conducted up here, isn't it?"

But for the record, if not for the Lord, Mitchell testified that he did indeed help direct an effort to cover up what he knew about Watergate, and knowingly and purposefully kept it from the President. Moreover, he knew beforehand that Jeb Stuart Magruder, his deputy, had planned to give false testimony to a federal grand jury investigating Watergate.

Mitchell admitted that he worked on campaign activities even while he was attorney general, though this admission was contrary to his earlier sworn testimony.

LIKE A MAN tired of the world and its sneaky ways, Mitchell justified his sins with the age-old argument that the end justifies the means, even if it is to lie. Mitchell's words were to be made reputations as righteously upholders of the law.

Richard Nixon, a man in need of great shelter, the way Mitchell described him.

No sanctimony, no low sound of the penitent from Mitchell. Just the drone of a dour man who had balanced off the consequences of honesty with the possible defeat of President Nixon in 1972.

"Senator," Mitchell answered when asked the big one about the importance of expediency, "I think you have put it exactly correct. In my mind, the re-election of Richard Nixon compared with what was available on the other side (George McGovern) was so much more important that I put it in just that context."

Mitchell, in fact, knew Mr. Nixon's weaknesses, and was fearful that the President might "lower the boom" on the guilty ones. Actually, Nixon might have come apart during the campaign had he known the full story of Watergate, and Mitchell, who had spent thousands of hours in the past decade counseling Nixon, almost like a psychiatrist, knew that.

IN TRUTH, Mitchell, H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and John Ehrlichman kept the facts from the President because they knew of Nixon's great need to be left alone. Mr. Nixon functions best in a small, enclosed room, with the door shut and the air conditioner on, facing a desk full of neatly typed option sheets and recommended courses of action.

The President is good preparing for and dealing with leaders like Leonid Brezhnev and Chou En-lai. He is poor in facing situations where he has to fire people or resolve a problem in a roomful of people anxious to talk. His ecstasy is isolation.

I remember that in 1967 I took Mr. Nixon to a luncheon with the top editors of Time, Inc., the day after he arrived from one of his globe-trotting trips. Mr. Nixon was suffering from jet fatigue and, as the editors' questioning grew more intense, he made less and less sense and was almost babbling at the end.

This episode reflected no lack of knowledge or mental power by Mr. Nixon; rather, it revealed his low threshold of fatigue. This fact about him helps explain why Mitchell and the President's other intimates kept so much from congressional Republicans' exasperation in dealing with the President through this gang.

LAST OCTOBER, Mitchell, (in what he said was the first interview he granted to a journalist since the Watergate episode) told me that he had no prior knowledge of, or role in, the Watergate break-in and bugging.

"Anyone in a campaign who would have ordered something like that should have his head examined," Mitchell said, looking me straight in the eye and puffing his pipe. Those in the press who had this kind of session with him usually came away telling associates that Mitchell was gruff, direct, a man's kind of man, seemingly oblivious to making political remarks.

Now we know that, in his dealings with the President, he could lie with the best of them. But even in his appearance at the Sam Ervin Show, Mitchell did have the virtue of refraining from the sort of pious Mr. Nixon's Young Sinners showed earlier in such vast and unctuous amounts.

All we can say is that John Mitchell is an Old Sinner who played his role faithfully.

**Feeling better**

WHATEVER THEIR OPINION of the man or the job he has been doing, all of us can find good news that President Nixon is resting comfortably (when he's not working, that is) and apparently over the worst of his bout with viral pneumonia.

The President has been a work horse in his 54 months in the White House, never missing a day until now because of illness. His doctor hasn't been able to get him to engage in enough physical exercise, and he's a man of few hobbies, but he stays fit.

IT IS A SIGN of something or other that his trip to Bethesda Naval Hospital last Thursday night, after a full day's work, caused some raised eyebrows. Was he choosing a different hideout, with Watergate and the country's economic troubles at their height?

There's little doubt that he had been under immense strain for months, with the fuel shortage, soaring food prices and a sinking dollar. Scandals in his official family were no help.

So he's in the hospital for a week or so. If nothing more, we can hope his desk isn't piled too high when he gets back.

**Boating risk**

Milwaukee Sentinel editorial  
A 10-YEAR-OLD can't buy a bottle of beer, drive a car or watch an X-rated movie in Wisconsin.

But there's nothing in state law to keep him from roaring across any lake in the state with an engine of any size pushing his boat.

Wisconsin counts its water related deaths each year in the dozens. Many of them result from boating accidents.

THERE'S NOTHING in the law to make sure the boater knows what he's doing.

That's a situation that needs correction. A minimum age for operating a power boat — possibly tied to some formula for integrating size of boat and motor — would be a welcome first step in that correction. It's the minimum the state could do to protect some of its children from their own lack of experience.

**From Tribune files**

SEVENTY YEARS AGO — 1953 Flying Fortresses and RAF fighter bombers attack German installations at three points of France, destroying 45 enemy flammings.  
General Taylor says is the first resumption of open warfare in two years.

Mayflies spot the lights of La Crosse, swarm in by the millions and die by the millions walking.

Harvey V. Higgley, Marinette, nominated by President Eisenhower to be administrator of veterans affairs, succeeding Carl H. Gray Jr., resigned.

Senator T.H. R. Ohio, withdraws from further participation in current session of congress because of a hip ailment.

Business earnings for second quarter show gain over 1952.

Gen. George S. Patton, commanding 7th Army invading Sicily, leaps into the surf from a landing barge, wades ashore to take personal command of bitter fighting against German tank units opposing the landing.

Yanks take two more airbases as Allied planes "raise havoc" across Sicily.

Russians regain some post ground. Nazi attacks cease in Onei-Kursk area.

Strong formations of U.S. troops

**Nixon misread Jackson's bill**

By PAUL SCOTT  
WASHINGTON — President Nixon's remarks to congressional leaders clearly indicate that he is not being fully briefed by his advisers on critical issues before Congress.

A case in point is Sen. Henry Jackson's amendment barring U.S. credits and most-favored-nation trade treatment to Russia until the Kremlin permits free emigration from the Soviet Union. In briefing the legislative leaders on his opposition to the Jackson amendment, the President treated the proposal as if it would only help Soviet Jews to emigrate, not all Soviet groups and individuals.

At one point in the meeting, the President frankly warned the lawmakers that "the U.S. cannot make its policy hostage to any one group. To do so" would be bad for the country and bad for that group," meaning the Jewish people.

The legislative leaders countered the President's statement by pointing out that the Jackson amendment was not just designed to help one group, it applied to all groups and individuals wanting to leave the Soviet Union.

This report seemed to baffle the President. After a brief silence, the President turned to Henry Kissinger, his national security adviser, saying:

"Henry, you will continue the discussion? You are handling this matter and know all the details. The point raised is new to me. The only pressure that I have been receiving on this issue has come from the Jewish community."  
In taking over the discussion, Kissinger ignored the lawmakers' contention that the amendment would help all Russians wanting to leave. Instead, he lectured the legislators on how the Jackson amendment, if adopted, would seriously damage U.S. Soviet relations, especially in the area of increasing trade.

WHEN THE LEGISLATIVE leaders pointed out that Moscow needed U.S. credit and trade so badly that their leaders would make concessions on emigration to obtain it, Kissinger replied:  
"Should this be the case, we should extract concessions affecting the entire U.S., not one favored group or foreign country."  
This is exactly what the Jackson amendment is designed to accomplish, and why it should have the support of the administration," answered one Democratic congressional leader.

**A court noted for mediocrity**

By JOHN P. ROCHER  
NOW THAT THE Supreme Court has concluded its year's labors, the analysts are busy trying to put a label on the net results. The general line seems to be that there is a "conservative" trend, though the evidence for this conclusion is tenuous at best.

The difficulty is that the court, as an institution, simply defies categorization in terms of the old "liberal" or "conservative" axis.

Take the abortion decision, Roe vs. Wade, as a case in point. Here the justices, led by Harry Blackmun, who presumably obtained his parliamentary credentials as counsel to the Mayo Clinic, went charging into one of the most complex legal and moral questions confronting Americans. Former Chief Justice Earl Warren must be a bit puzzled these days when he hears sneering references to his Court as "activist."

Without getting into a discussion of the decision, which I (despite my support for carefully regulated abortion procedures) reads like a had second-year law school exercise for the court, let us see how the Supreme Court of the United States acted as diagnosticians if I should land up in Massachusetts General Hospital.

My conclusion is that American constitutional law is in for a rough time. Not because the Court is "conservative" but, to be blunt, because it is incompetent.

Not since Harry Truman put four of his buddies on the bench have we seen such an aggregation of mediocrity.

who had been briefed by Jackson.

In answer to Kissinger's assertion that the amendment would hurt U.S. Soviet trade, the lawmakers pointed out that nothing in the Jackson rider would prohibit any American businessman, or any agency of the U.S. government from buying from or selling to the Soviet Union.

"All that is at issue here," commented one lawmaker, "is whether we are to extend trade concessions to the Soviets, whether we are to allow them most-favored entry to our markets, whether we are to finance their economic development, guarantee investments in their economy, and subsidize their interest rates."

ON THIS ISSUE, the lawmakers stressed, the sentiment of Congress is clear: Nearly three-fourths of the Senate and an overwhelming majority of the House are saying: "No! Not so long as Russia defies the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by denying her citizens the opportunity to emigrate."

After glancing at the Jackson statement, the President said he would give it additional study later.

After returning to the Capitol, Speaker Carl Albert told fellow lawmakers that he believed President Nixon had been poorly briefed on provisions of the Jackson amendment, saying:

"The President seemed very surprised to learn that the Jackson amendment covered emigration for all Russians."



**For some liberals, it's a shock**  
**Be-kind-to-industry year**

By JOHN WYNGAARD  
MADISON — For anyone who views developments in the perspective of several decades of Wisconsin state economic policy as represented in its taxation practices, the abrupt about-face on the issue of business taxation is difficult to believe.

Not in his most optimistic mood could a typical Wisconsin industrial executive have visualized, even five years ago, that the time would come when the state would undertake

the deliberate and substantial tax relief measures for industry just endorsed on a bipartisan basis in the legislature.

As this report is dispatched, the lawmakers are deliberating the compromise state budget for the next two years, and the outcome is not sure known. But it is attitude that is important. Whatever the fate of the budget as it relates to a thousand possible points of dispute, a consensus has been shown that the worries about "tax climate" were justified, however they were ridiculed and challenged by politicians in other times.

Current membership bulletins of the Wisconsin Manufacturers Association carry cheerful comments of the kind that would have made subscribers blink in disbelief at any other time in the state's modern history.

THEIR TENOR suggests the image of the association men in their Milwaukee offices blinking in disbelief as they regard the evidence in the legislative political consensus. It includes such items as:

— Relief of taxation on fuel and electricity used in the manufacturing process, enacted only a few years ago in defiance of the anguished protest of major Wisconsin industrial managers;

— Adjustment of the corporation income tax formula as it relates to liability for sales outside the state;

— The pledge of additional reduction now of the personal property tax, and the declared intention to eliminate it altogether during the next four years;

— Most remarkable of all is proposed elimination of the onerous tax on machinery and equipment used in the manufacturing process.

Only a few years ago, politicians of both parties would not have ventured to suggest any one of such concessions. Most of them can remember, and the Democrats especially, when the idea of levying taxes on corporations was a popular theme of the candidate for political office.

For many of the more aggressively liberal Democrats, indeed, it appears likely that such action now requires some hard swallowing. But the swallowing has evidently been accomplished.

THERE IS AN explanation, of course, that must be taken into account. Without the happy circumstance of a lushly expanded state revenue flow, such goodies would have been impossible.

These tax concessions in jeopardy at another time.

The bonanza-like quality of the state's current fiscal situation, indeed, was obliquely acknowledged the other day when Gov. Patrick Lucey took pains to forecast that the happy revenue experience would probably continue at least through the next biennium — which was an oblique way of suggesting that he is looking forward to another happy term.

Notwithstanding, there is substantial security for the beneficiaries in the explicit endorsement — by ranking spokesmen of both political parties — of the principle of encouraging industrial growth, employment, and community prosperity. Such a record would provide a formidable barrier to future revocation of the tax-cutting decision of today, without regard to the fact that it derives from happy circumstance rather than plan.

**Tribune mail**  
**Distinguished service**

Sirs — In all professions and occupations, there are a few individuals who distinguish themselves by outstanding dedication to their work and service to their fellowmen. Some residents of North Side La Crosse know this prototype in the person of mail carrier Herbert Nelson, who recently retired. My farewell gift to him was accompanied by the following sentiments, which I believe are representative also of those of many others persons who know him:

"For the countless packages you delivered to me and for taking the time to ring the buzzer to assure their safe arrival!

"For putting unopened catalogs and magazines in my mailbox instead of dumping them in the rack like the substitutes' easy-way-out!

"For your day-in, day-out super service with a smile!

"For being the most personable, pleasant mail carrier it has been my privilege to know!

"Many Thanks and Good Wishes."  
— Mrs. Ohaf (Florence M.) Hoff, 939 Copeland Ave., La Crosse.

P.S. Mrs. Kathryn Nawrocke's article, "Pop Was Against Blowing It To Hell and Gone" was a sheer delight. What a talented, witty writer that lady is!

**BUTTON-A-DAY**  
with ZIP AND ZIPPER  
**Badminton Is For The Birds**