

The Transcript

PAGE 12 Tuesday, November 23, 1976 FOUNDED 1843

Stopping crime

THE AMBITIOUS conference on criminal justice that took place at North Adams State College Saturday foreshadowed a debate that will likely consume the better part of next year as Massachusetts addresses the problem of its creaky and expensive court system.

And while the conference focused on the system as it exists, indirectly it highlighted a much more fundamental problem that does not have the attention it needs, the spotting of behavioral problems at an age early enough to provide help so that they do not develop into criminal problems.

As important as it is, the judicial system in Massachusetts, or any other state, is established to cope with crime after it has occurred. The judicial system presupposes a Catch 22 situation: the more crime, the more cops; the more cops, the more criminals caught; the more criminals caught, the more work for the courts; the more work for the courts, the more people sent to correctional institutions; the more people in correctional institutions, the less the facilities can handle them.

And of all the systems, the one least able to cope with the problems is the correctional system which must accept people at the end of a long unfortunate history of trouble.

CERTAINLY THE COURT SYSTEM has problems as made abundantly clear by Archibald Cox, Saturday's keynote speaker and head of the Governor's Committee on Judicial Needs in Massachusetts which will deliver its recommendations sometime next month.

Chief among them is a structure that is so decentralized that there are 417 separate budgets for the courts, each prepared without regard for the other. Superior Court dockets are so backlogged that it takes months for a case to come to trial but there are instances where District Courts are untrammelled. It's a system where some judges are busy, some aren't, and some can't take up the slack because jurisdictional lines between courts are too rigid.

BUT THE REAL MESSAGE of the conference came through the panels on the juvenile offender and on correctional programs. Both are trying to cope with overwhelming problems with neither the budgets nor the facilities to do the job needed. Again and again panelists stated problems begin in home environments at early ages, and this is where the treatment should begin, not when the problems become hard-core enough to be brought to the attention of the courts and the correction systems.

The job to be done is one of prevention. That means much more effort at spotting behavioral problems in the very young before they become crises, much more parent and family therapy work, much more crime in the early years of schooling.

The Commonwealth's Chapter 766 made a start at remedying this kind of problem but became a cruel joke when the legislature failed to follow through with the funding needed. But if Chapter 766 and programs like it are developed, if the funding is sufficient, it's a sure bet the judicial system could be made more efficient and less expensive because the problems that create criminals would have been resolved long before they came to the attention of the courts.

Walter J. Donovan

WALTER J. DONOVAN of Adams who died quietly in his sleep early yesterday morning was a rare man whose vision so transcended his occupation that his legacy will last long after his death.

Mr. Donovan was a lawyer and a good one. He envisioned law, not as a tool that could be fashioned and forged for selfish ends, but as a means towards quality in life and as a protection for the less fortunate whose causes he so ably defended during his lifetime.

He was a teacher who shaped the careers of hundreds of lawyers who learned from him in the courtroom or in the law firm he established that became one of the more prestigious in western Massachusetts.

He was a philosopher and a wise man who as town moderator guided countless town meetings in Adams, sorting through the emotions to make sure everyone spoke, that the issue was defined. He was a philanthropist, quietly helping those in need, never letting his efforts be known.

His interests were never bounded by town line parochialism. For many years he participated actively in the area's industrial development effort as a member of the former Northern Berkshire Development Corp. He also was active in countless Northern Berkshire and county organizations.

Unlike other members of his profession who have attained success, Mr. Donovan never called excessive attention to himself. He didn't need to.

It will be said that Berkshire County lost a great lawyer. More accurately, this part of the state lost a great citizen. His example, however, will live because the quality of his life was such that death will not end his presence.

Washington insight

FORGET ABOUT BISMARCK. Metternich, Talleyrand and that crowd. Anybody who wants to understand the secret of Henry Kissinger's diplomacy need only look at his latest, and probably last, big fling—the Rhodesian affair.

By a sudden stroke, Dr. Kissinger turned American policy toward Africa completely around in ways beneficial to this country, and damaging to prospects of Soviet penetration. While he had no follow-through, he was able to get the best of both worlds in a way not harmful to American interests.

The starting point was the so-called "Tarbaby" policy followed by President Nixon and Dr. Kissinger from 1969 through 1975. By that policy Washington gave the wet mittens to radical African liberation movements, while doing more than a little business than usual with the white regimes of Rhodesia and South Africa.

"Tarbaby" policy was a cropper when Portugal gave independence to Angola last fall. The Kissinger policy was to block take-

over by a Soviet-backed faction. To that end, in collusion with South African officials, he gave support and arms to two rival Angolan factions. But the congress refused to back a policy conceived in secret, inadequately funded, and not exactly in keeping with traditional American ideas about self-determination.

IN TIME the Soviet proteges came to power in Angola. America got a black eye in Africa for joining with the unloved regime of South Africa in supporting bad guys who lost against better guys who won. The Ford administration, for the same reasons, lost prestige at home. The Russians scored a gain, and readied themselves for further penetration in the Dark Continent.

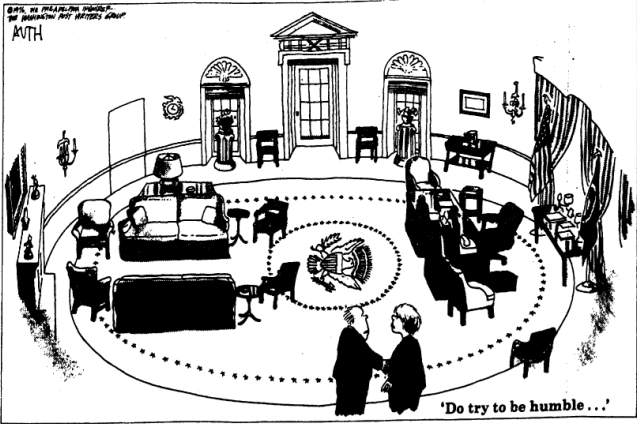
The next domino in the path of the African liberation movement was Rhodesia. Dr. Kissinger moved rapidly to avert a replay of Angola. In spring, he visited black African leaders and announced—in a speech in Lusaka—that the U.S. would henceforth

support majority rule in Africa, not white minority regimes.

He next sought out the prime minister of South Africa, John Vorster, and persuaded him that Rhodesia would be in trouble unless a compromise with black nationalists was effected by the white government under Ian Smith. Mr. Vorster began pressuring Smith to give way.

Dr. Kissinger then met Mr. Smith face-to-face and persuaded him that the sands were running out on white rule in Rhodesia. He won agreement from Mr. Smith to meet with black leaders in a conference to consider a program for achieving majority rule under a new constitution in two years.

By the conversion—or selling out, if you prefer—of Mr. Smith, Dr. Kissinger achieved a veritable revolution in American policy. The United States switched its support from white minority regimes to black liberation movements. It wrung a major concession—a concession nobody else had been able to get—from the Smith regime. American was in the good guy



At large

The college kids come home

By Ellen Goodman

BOSTON — For many years I was certain that Thanksgiving was a plot devised by the Turkey Population Growth lobby. But, more recently, I have decided that it is truly brought to us by the American Family Psychoanalytic Association, in order to study mid-life crisis patterns and their identity crisis children.

For those of you unfamiliar with the middle-class American Life Cycle patterns, every September, at enormous expense, a large segment of the population sends its children off to institutions of Higher Adolescence known as universities. These institutions are charged with the responsibility of managing the transition of America's youth into adulthood.

Ideally, they are to produce totally delightful 22-year-old graduates who are independent but caring, articulate but agreeable, and fully appreciative of their parents' wonderfulness. In short, "the children we would have regretted not having when we were older."

These institutions, like all modern rehabilitative centers, allow the wards out on furloughs at carefully managed intervals known as holidays.

During each of these furloughs—of which Thanksgiving is the first—the issue is to discover how the new lessons fit into the old setting. Not to mention vice versa.

THE KIDDIES come home with a mixed agenda. They want to be taken care of on the one hand, and prove their independence on the other. They drop their laundry in the utility room and their opinions in the dining room.

They are hurt if their parents have forgotten to stock up on their special brand of local soda, and horrified if these same parents expect them to eat their favorite roast, since they "don't touch meat anymore." They want to be treated like visitors who get clean sheets, while conveniently forgetting that

visitors ask before they use the car. Their parents meanwhile have their own adjustments to make. You see, those who were prepared for an attack of the empty-nest syndrome in September are aghast at the symptoms of a full-nest syndrome in November.

In the past six weeks they have discovered what it's like to have sex when you don't have to outwit your teenage children — "Not now, THEY are still awake!" — and what it's like to have dinner time conversation instead of arbitration. After years of "running a household," they are learning to live together.

Now vaguely distressed at having a household of children, they have realms of guilt — "Does this mean I don't miss my children?" Does this mean I don't love them?" — which leads them into overdoing their young with nurturing and role-playing.

THE SEPARATE ISSUES of parents and children meet across the groaning board known as Thanksgiving Dinner. Next to this encounter of generations is the university of Texas' playing field is as calm as a chess board.

There is, for example, one daughter who has come home with a definitive analysis of her parents' relationship — "sexist!" — and now wants to institute a plan for changing it: "Mother, you carve the turkey." Then, there is the son who is taking an American

history course in the 1960s and informs his father that "Jack Kennedy was a fascist!" (an opinion his father calculates costs \$465, not including books).

To add to the family fun, there is a son who has decided that it is time for him to be honest and direct with grandma, so that "she will know where I'm coming from," which is generally an X-rated dictionary. And, finally, there is daughter's Mystery Guest, whom she introduces to 83-year-old Aunt Jane as "my lover." In case anyone had not noticed.

Mother, in turn, tells her daughter (in front of the lover) to brush her hair. Father reminds his son to "Kiss your Aunt Polly hello," and in glorious union they tell their 20-year-old to "Finish your peas or no dessert."

DINNER THUS ENDS in a draw, and the turkey ends in a curry. Or a fricassee. Or a salad. Everyone is momentarily aghast at the speed with which they fell into their old roles, but the best goes on.

The holiday home is a half-way house between childhood and adulthood, between parenthood and friendship, and it's difficult to work out these transitions in a 108-hour furlough. But this is just a beginning. If Thanksgiving can be handled without a major bloodletting, give thanks for that. Remember, there are only 30 recovery days until Christmas.

Letters to The Transcript

Krizack family expresses thanks

At this time the Krizack Family would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who gave of their time and effort in the search for books. We would like to thank Lt. Milo Brown of the Massachusetts State Police and his staff for their continuing effort in this case. We would especially like to mention Chief Joseph Zito and the entire Williamstown Police Department for the superb job they did in organizing and coordinating the massive and highly efficient search operation.

Sincere thanks are also due to the following whose participation was invaluable: the

people of Williamstown and neighboring communities who braved the foul weather. The Civil Air Patrol, the Vermont State Search and Rescue Squad, The Williamstown Fire Department, The New England Truckers Association, The Sons of Italy, Excelsior Printing Co. and Laramie Printing Co. And finally, thank you to those people everywhere whose concern and support we greatly value.

THE KRIZACK FAMILY
42 Southworth St.
Williamstown

Join Friends of Drury band

I should like to take this opportunity to invite all interested citizens to become members of Parents and Friends of the Drury High School Band. You need not be the parent of a student who is a band member; the only qualification is an interest in boosting the Drury High School Band its activities.

This hard working and talented group of young people play good music. They participate in a stage band, a concert band, and a marching band. The band marches at all home football games, in the Fall Foliage Festival as well as at other occasions. The concert performed at the Sheraton during festival week this fall was delightful. They warrant your support.

If you would like to join us in support of

the Drury High School Band, please contact any of the individuals listed below.

SAMUEL GOMEZ
president
36 Cherry St.
RICHARD F. BOULGEE
vice president
47 Wall St.
ELLEN LORETAN
secretary
85 Kemp Ave.
BERNICE ALCOBRIGG HT
public relations rep.
187 Mass. Ave.
EVELYN DAVIS
treasurer
62 Chase Ave.

Opportunity to build on Kissinger's foundation

By Joseph Kratt

camp.

BUT WITH THAT ACHIEVEMENT, Dr. Kissinger had also shot his bolt. He had no means of enforcing agreement between Rhodesian blacks and whites. Nor, since the U.S. had no vital interest at stake, any reason to do so. So he deftly handed over the working out of details to a conference of Rhodesian blacks and whites in Geneva under the leadership of Britain.

The Geneva conference is not apt to succeed. Nor is it likely that majority rule will come peacefully to Rhodesia. But Dr. Kissinger and the U.S. will not be blamed. On the contrary, Washington, far from being in the middle, is on the fringes, as it should be given the lack of American interest in southern Africa.

If anything, Washington will get credit for finally moving Mr. Smith off the dime. The Russians certainly will be in poorer position to exploit anti-white feeling against the U.S. than they were in Angola.

WHAT THIS SAYS to me is that the Kissinger diplomacy is essentially a diplomacy of movement. He is good at turning sudden events to his advantage and the U.S. and the disadvantage of its adversaries—he is good at seizing openings. He did that with China, in the Near East, in dealings with the allies and even in Vietnam.

But he is much less good at solving problems, nor is there always a helpful ally ready to carry the ball. When big commitments are at stake, the absence of follow-through can have heavy costs. That is essentially the story of the debacle in Vietnam.

On the whole, however, the Kissinger legacy is a good position almost everywhere in the world—with respect to Russia, to China, to Europe and Japan, in the Near East and even with the less-developed countries of the third world. The task of the next administration is to exploit these favorable positions in a way that fosters long-term settlements.