

TAX GIMMICK? ? ? — OR PANIC ANTIC? ? ?

An Editorial

What lies behind "Rocky's" proposal for registration of rifles and shot-guns in New York State. Is it a "Tax-Fee" gimmick that is being proposed under the subterfuge to halt crime? Is it a "Panic Antic" to build support for a greatly enlarged State Police Force? Or could it be ill-advice from a Governors Council of City Dwellers that haven't broadened their prospective beyond the confines of "City Limits"?

At any rate, unless YOU Taxpayers, YOU Citizens, YOU VOTERS — express your feelings and opinions SOON — you are liable to wake up some morning with a State Official knocking on your door, armed with a search warrant, and demanding to have you show what firearms you possess so they can be registered!

Do you think that it sounds far-fetched? Do you think it couldn't happen anywhere? Stop and think a minute before you answer that one!

Isn't that what happened in Russia? In Hitler's Germany? And in every other country where well-meaning Legislators passed Laws like this before a Dictator was able to step in?

Instead of strict "Gun-Control" and Registration, do you know what one Grand Jury in our Country recommended?

This was taken from the "Buffalo Courier-Express" and we quote:

"While some congressional leaders and Gov. Rockefeller are advocating stricter gun-control laws as a means of stemming the crime wave, a Davidson County grand jury in Nashville, Tenn., has made an altogether different recommendation aimed at solving the same problem.

The jury which has been looking into the rise in crime in that county urged the hiring of more policemen and advocated imposition of the death penalty in murder convictions and maximum sentences for others found guilty of serious crimes. The jury said 'an avalanche of crime and arson has come upon us, and gangs of young criminals are running rampant in the streets.'

As a protection against the invasion of the home by hoodlums, the grand jury recommended that every citizen should have at least one gun in his home. It is apparent that the jury holds with the theory that a home is a man's castle and that he has a right to shoot an invader if he feels that it is necessary to protect his home and family.

A criminal who pays no attention to existing firearms laws is not likely to obey any new laws which would disarm him. But it is quite likely that a criminal would think twice before smashing his way into a home where he might encounter a blast from a 12-gauge shot-gun."

Along these same lines, Sir Richard Jackson, a world-renowned criminologist who formerly headed Scotland Yard and Interpol, the international police organization, in a recent speech at Washington, D. C. said: "The only people who obtain firearms in England without bothering to go to the police for a permit are professional criminals."

This is all too true for whether it is in England, United States, or New York State, professional criminals are bound to obtain weapons that can not be traced back to them.

Has the Sullivan Law in New York State stopped criminals and hoodlums from carrying pistols or revolvers? Absolutely not !!! In fact, crimes committed with the use of hand-guns have jumped at an alarming rate — since the passing of the "Sullivan Law." But, only a small percentage of the crimes solved have come from the tracing of the gun used back to the hardened criminal. It is usually only in the cases of the "amateur killers" that a pistol is traced back to its owner. And, we imagine, that many, many more crimes are committed by the well known "blunt instrument" — then by registered guns.

Why isn't there a big "hue and cry" to have this killer — the "blunt instrument" registered? It would make just as much sense wouldn't it?

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50 YEARS AGO

Jan. 11, 1918

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Following are the Officers of the various fraternal societies of Andover for the coming year — Edward Seaman Post, No. 481, Commander, John Deming; Edward Seaman Relief Corps, No. 155, President, Mrs. Carrie Green; I.O.O.F., Noble Grand, Park Rogers; Rebekahs, Noble Grand, Fannie Backus; Union Encampment No. 171, Chief Patriarch, Earl Goodrich; Canton, Captain, George H. Beebe; Masonic, Worthy Master, B. S. Brundage; Eastern Star, Patron, George Beebe; Matron, Ida Williams; Grange, Master A. L. Rogers; K.O.T.M., Commander, C. E. Baker.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Frisbey will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary Friday, January 18th with an open house.

The Condensory is harvesting a splendid crop of ice this week. A fine quality, 18 inches thick, was never cut.

Mrs. C. C. Green of Independence spent a few days this past week with Jesse Clarke and family at Friendship.

Mrs. M. A. Green of Alfred Station is spending the winter with her daughter Mrs. C. M. Crandall.

Mrs. James Boyle and two children returned to their home in Belfast Wednesday after spending the week with her father, R. McAndrew of South Hill.

James Karcenas left Tuesday for a few weeks visit with relatives in Urbana, Ohio.

Miss Ella Lynch is passing a few days in Hornell guest of her brother, J. A. Lynch.

Private J. Victor Stearns is home on a 15-day furlough from Camp Wadsworth.

Mrs. D. M. Green is in Alfred to day guest of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Langworthy in observance of their golden wedding anniversary.

Clay E. Jordan returned Tuesday from St. Louis, where he passed the holidays with his family.

Miss Reba Burrows returned to her school studies in Geneseo Wednesday after spending the holiday vacation at her home.

40 YEARS AGO

Jan. 13, 1928

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Earl J. Dawson purchased Saturday of C. E. Brown, the undertaking business he has conducted here for the past 19 years. The business is being removed this week to the store known as the "Burrows Store" corner of Main and Center Streets, where he is equipping a first class undertaking parlors.

Nancy Slocum Shear, 51, born in Andover, died January 5th at her home in Woodhull.

Miss Beatrice Carson and Lehman Davis, both of Andover, were united in marriage Saturday, January 7th by Rev. Walter L. Greene.

Mr. and Mrs. David Smith (Edna Bassett of Independence) of Hallsport, are the parents of a daughter, Doris Irene, born Thursday, January 5th.

Mrs. Northrup of Corning is spending some time at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Lloyd Meade of Elm Valley.

Mrs. Sherd Austin spent a couple of days last week with her sister, Mrs. Ida Simms of Greenwood.

Mrs. Norm Rogers and daughter Sarah, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Wallace.

The Misses Florence and Luella Grantier of Canistota are guests of Mrs. Charles Clarke of Independence for a few days.

Mrs. Herman Warner of Wrights, Pa., and Mrs. Charles Baxter of Fort Allegany, Pa., are spending a few days with their sister, Mrs. Emma Lewis of Independence.

Mrs. Weltha Briggs is in Whitesville to spend some time at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George Lewis of that village.

Mrs. Louise Corwin of Dewey, Mich., who has been visit-



by Alex Rankin

Some people, many of them titled and otherwise respectable, have from time to time expressed the wish that New York City perhaps could be sawed off, allowed to drift out to sea and sort of disappear in the fog.

Most of these people, it must be admitted, come from somewhere in the state other than New York City.

Many more people, while not expressing this wish in such blunt words, have made a tidy living from playing the politically pro-

ing relatives in this locality for several weeks is the guest at the home of Mrs. George Barrett this week.

Miss Agnes Delaney of Buffalo is the guest of Andover friends this week.

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Cannon were Buffalo visitors Wednesday and Thursday.

Miss Eloise Green of Richburg, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Green of Tip Top.

30 YEARS AGO

Jan. 7, 1938

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Mrs. Margaret Dean, 81, died Monday, January 3rd at the home of her daughter, Mary in Ithaca. Two daughters, four sons and a brother survive. Interment was in Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Supt. and Mrs. E. A. Mullen were honored at a 35th wedding anniversary party Monday evening. 50 guests were present.

Mrs. Rose L. Church and John C. Swartz of Greenwood were united in marriage Wednesday, December 22.

Mr and Mrs. Edward Ryan are the parents of a son, born Monday, January 3rd.

Mrs. Wayne Crandall returned to her home in Independence Friday after spending a few days guest of her parents, Rev. and Mrs. L. A. Green of Albion, Wisconsin.

Miss Mary O'Boyle who passed her Christmas vacation with her mother, Mrs. Mary O'Boyle, has returned to Medina.

Ralph Williams returned to Scottsville Sunday after passing his Christmas vacation with his mother, Mrs. Mabel Williams.

Jan. 14, 1938

Claire Greene, MD., graduate of Alfred University in 1933 and of George Washington Medical College in 1937, has recently been appointed one of the resident physicians in Gallinger Municipal Hospital in Washington, D. C.

James R. Burbank, 77, died Sunday, January 9th at his home on the Quigg Hollow Road. His widow and a brother survive. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery.

Louis S. Bassett, 68, died at his home in Independence Sunday, January 9th. His widow, a daughter and three sisters survive. Interment was in the Independence Cemetery.

Jay Prentice Burdick, 60, of the Andover - Wellsville Road, died Friday, January 7th following an illness of pneumonia. His widow, a daughter, a son and two brothers survive. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery, Wellsville.

Mr. and Mrs. Shirley Evans have moved from Avoca to the Floyd Bassett home in Bennetts Creek.

Miss Bernice Williams passed the week-end at the home of her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Pease of Wellsville.

Mrs. James Feeley of Detroit, Mich., who has been visiting relatives in Andover for a week, returned to her home Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dean and daughter, left for Bradford, Pa., Friday on their return trip home to Oblong, Ill., after being called to Andover by the death of his mother Mrs. Margaret Dean.

Best Year Home Town!

fitable angles of it as if it were all they believed in.

This can be seen in the fact that the state Legislature in Albany has historically been divided not along party lines, but along upstate-downstate interests. Party politics in the Legislature have, in fact, served as a cloak to cover this deeper and more essential key to state politics.

And now the Fun Person has a plan which proves this.

The Fun Person is, of course, John V. Lindsay, the mayor of Fun City. And he has a budget problem this year. He is about \$400 million short.

He has a solution. It should be noted that this solution came in a "Christmas letter" to Governor Rockefeller. In the past these letters have said what the city will be asking for in the coming legislative session.

Lindsay wants to drastically change the way state aid is given out to local governments. This state aid comes from taxpayers all over the state.

In short, his plan would give more money from taxpayers all over the state to New York City.

Since 1947 this money has been given out on a population basis, so many dollars for every person in a given locality. It begins by noting how much money there is to be given out to every locality, and then is apportioned out on a formula based on population.

Lindsay's idea is to change all this and base it on the amount of money a particular locality spends of local tax resources.

Right away the first serious flaw pops up. Given the nature of government, that is that it ALWAYS spends more instead of less than it previously did, it will encourage this trend instead of reversing it. To reverse it means lower taxes.

If the amount a city such, say, Elmira, Rome, Kingston or Oswego receives in state aid is based on how much that city spends, then that city will be thinking up ways to spend more money so that it can get even more in state aid.

At the present time the only way these cities can do this is to encourage a population explosion.

Mayor Lindsay, of course, does not worry about this. He is not worried about Suffolk, St. Lawrence or Orange Counties.

New York City already has an annual budget bigger than the state government itself. This year's state budget is \$4.6 billion. New York City's is on the order of \$5.4 billion.

Lindsay did not say where the money is coming from. That is the nature of Christmas letters.

One writes them to Santa Claus and that is it. He did point out in the letter that it would mean the state would have to come up with another \$310 billion.

Which brings up another point. Under the present head-count system New York City gets \$99.3 million, or about 40 percent of all state aid to local governments, since about 40 percent of the state's population is there. Under the Fun Formula, the city would get an additional \$319.8 million, or about 65 percent of all state aid.

Which brings up another point. Governor Rockefeller says there will be a \$500 to \$600 million budget deficit this year, a problem which has already emerged as the major topic of the 1968 legislative session, primarily because all state Senators and Assemblymen are up for reelection this year.

Obviously, no one wants to be accused of raising taxes in an election year.

There are signs already that they may do it anyway.

Sometime within the next few days, the Fun Person will fly to Albany to formally present his plan.

And then there will be a lot of Legislators who will suddenly begin day-dreaming about New York City slowly drifting off somewhere else.