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VIEWPOINT

Will Schweiker run?

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—Fish-or-cut-bait time is rapidly approaching for Sen. Richard S. Schweiker, R-Pa., who has been testing the waters of his home state for a possible gubernatorial bid this year

Although several polls have shown him with a comfortable lead over all other gubernatorial contenders, Republican or Democrat, Schweiker is still hesitating

He has previously indicated he would make the race only if other GOP hopefuls drop out and unite behind his candidacy And that, it is now apparent, isn't going to happen

At least one Republican, Richard Thornburg, former head of the Justice Department's criminal division, "is in the race all the way, regardless of what Schweiker does," according to his associates

Thornburg could be formidable competition. He has already raised a sizeable campaign kitty and has signed on a top-flight political consultant, Eddie Mahe, former executive director of the GOP National Committee

Even more discouraging, from Schweiker's perspective, is the fact that Thornburg also has a lock on the services of media whiz David Garth, who masterminded the upset triumph of Edward I Koch in last year's New York mayoralty election

It would be almost unprecedented for a senator to give up his seat to run for governor, but Schweiker has blithely confessed he is interested in the state house primarily as a stepping stone towards a presidential bid in 1980

As governor, blessed with political patronage plums, he figures he could lock up the Pennsylvania GOP delegation to the 1980 convention As senator, he's never packed much clout with party regulars

Politicians elsewhere sneer at Schweiker's sudden conversion to conservatism following his 1976 alliance with Ronald Reagan. (His rating by the liberal Americans for Democratic Action plunged from 80 to 15 last year.)

But Schweiker is unruffled by all the snickers. He has a virulent case of White House fever, and will pursue whichever course appears likely to lead to his goal

Senate hostilities coming ?

Former Rep William Roy, D-Kansas, is the early favorite to succeed retiring GOP Sen James B Pearson, which could produce one of the most hostile Senate combinations in recent years

Roy, an obstetrician and lawyer, was narrowly defeated in 1974 by Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., following a bruising and bitter campaign which left deep scars. He had planned to tackle Dole again in 1980, but could wind up serving with him instead as a result of Pearson's unexpected retirement





Martha Angle and Robert Walters

IN WASHINGTON

Driver ed isn't enough

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—In the years since World War II, it has become a ritual element of American life The teenager comes home from high school one day and requests his or her parents' permission to enroll in the school's driver education program

The parents readily agree, assuming that the course is far superior to either the commercial instruction offered by driving schools or the blind - leading - the - blind alternative of learning from a friend or relative

The teenager, however, often has a hidden agenda In many states, 16- and 17-year-olds can be licensed to drive only after successfully completing a driver education course. All others must wait until 18, and for an adolescent that additional year or two can be an eternity

But now a Washington-based safety organization with impeccable credentials has produced a meticulously researched study conclusively demonstrating that the driver education-early license approach leads to thousands of unnecessary highway fatalities each year

Even more startling, the authors of the study conclude that even if early licensing is eliminated, high school driver education "would not be of any demonstrated benefit in reducing crash involvement"

The study of the effect of driver education in 27 states during the late 1960s and early 1970s was conducted by Drs Leon S Robertson and Paul L Zador

Both are affiliated with the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, a highly respected independent organization that has been in the forefront of efforts to improve the nation's roads, cars and drivers

The care with which the study was done is demonstrated by the state-by-state adjustment of the computations to take into account two relatively obscure factors that contribute heavily to fatal crashes — rural roads and wet pavements

Robertson and Zador even considered the possibility that accident rates might be higher among 16- and 17-year-olds because they are new and inexperienced drivers

But the research demonstrated that the rate of fatal crashes among those who didn't take driver education courses and waited until 18 or 19 to be licensed differed little from their early-licensed peers who had the benefit of two years' experience

(Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington are among the states that issue early licenses to graduates of driver education courses.)

In 1975, approximately 4,000 drivers who had not reached their 18th birthday were involved in fatal crashes In about half of those accidents, only one car was involved — thus eliminating the possibility of blaming the "other driver" or some other external factor

"Parents have been misled to believe that driver education decreased the risk of their children's involvement in crashes," the authors conclude "The estimate of 2,000 fatal crashes that would be prevented (annually) if persons under 18 are not licensed in a very conservative, minimum estimate"

Robertson and Zador properly refuse to go beyond their data, stating that "physical and emotional maturity as factors in crash involvement are not well understood." But that may indeed be the key to the disproportionate number of auto accidents involving young drivers

Caution, a sense of their own limitations, an understanding of the unpredictability of others' behavior and an awareness of their mortality simply are not among most teenagers' assets

At the risk of alienating those for whom securing a driver's license is an important part of the rites of passage to adulthood, we would suggest the conclusion is obvious Licenses should be restricted to those 18 and older — with or without a driver education course



Ivan D.E. Beaumont

THE BUCK ENDS HERE

Bill gets new family

A new family —

Mr and Mrs Bill (Linda) Nelson and their two children will move to Boys Town this week where they will live on campus as family teachers.

Mr Nelson will be missed. He guided the Lourdes football team to state prominence and had an insurance business before giving it up for the Boys Town job. He also "worked out" with other athletes and is one of the most respected wrestling officials on the mats

The Nelsons will be in charge of six boys ages 11 to 17 They won't be teaching the three R's, but will concentrate on the new community living concept. The idea is that when boys leave the community, they must be trained to prepare their meals, do the housekeeping chores and care for themselves and their clothing.

It's a different job, but Bill sees it as a challenge The boys will also be taught social graces and live under a merit system with strict discipline.

We know Bill Nelson He'll make it work Good luck

+ + +

Happy New Year —

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Edward Rains and their daughter, Wendy, as winners of the first baby of 1978 contest. Wendy arrived at 4 57 a.m., at St. Mary's tipping the scales at seven pounds, 13 ounces.

Mr and Mrs Rains have two sons, Dirk, eight and Mark, three years of age.

Maybe congratulations should go to Mr and Mrs Roy (Linda Thorson) Hauptman, Nebraska City Their daughter arrived December 31 at St. Mary's

Why? Well, not only for the new arrival, but for the "timely" arrival .you know...beat the income tax with another dependent.

We've decided that Society Editor Dorene Duffey will be the reporter assigned to cover First Babies of the Year. The stork doesn't always cooperate so well, but this year Mrs Duffey was assigned to get the picture and story and she must have flashed her Grandmother's Housing Authority Card to get the stork to make an early landing.

+ + +

Not enough snow —

John Rayner who works at the OPPD power plant south of town, says Nebraska City is a wonderful town in which to raise a family, but he misses the snows of Green River, Wyoming.

John and daughter, Carrie, stopped in the other evening and we got better acquainted while sitting at the kitchen table and visiting. He snowmobiles, skis and is an avid elk and deer hunter, but what he misses most is the heavy snow accumulation

For example, six feet of snow on the level makes for a whole lot of fun for winter sportsmen and women, but it sounds to me like a whole lot of snow and cold temps

John disagrees. He says the winters at Green River do not seem as cold as they are in Nebraska City Perhaps also is the difference in humidity

+ + +

Congratulations —

..to Gary Blakeman of American Meter Company on his appointment as vice president of personnel-organization for the division of the Singer Company

Gary is a former Chamber manager and worked for a time at Clemmy Holmes Motor Company before joining American Meter He has been with the company 14 years, nine of which have been as manager of the plant.

The appointment is effective February 1 Philadelphia will gain a fine family and we regret the loss, but we wish the Blakemans much success and happiness.

This will be a big year at American Meter in Nebraska City The company will celebrate its 25th birthday in a major observance planned for this summer

+ + +

The vacation —

Mr and Mrs Mel Todd, rural Union, can now go to Scottsdale, Ariz., for a winter vacation with comforting thoughts of watching grandson, Mike, on the wrestling mat.

The Todds have been planning the trip, but wanted to see Mike in action before leaving Mike had planned on wrestling at Plattsmouth, but as with many wrestlers, he had a weight problem that week and couldn't reduce to the requirement

He tipped the scales at the proper weight class the other night and made up for lost time by pinning his opponent in short order We looked over to the group of people cheering for Mike It was a family affair, Mom and Dad, the grandparents, little brother and three sisters, Jane, Beverly and Judy Mike had a big smile So did the family

Have a good trip in the southwest

+ + +

Hello to Brian —

Brian LaMaster, 16, is improving slowly at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha, with gunshot wounds Brian's mother was killed and his step-father died later in the murder-suicide

The tragedy of Brian has affected most of us in the community We don't know him well, but we have seen him at wrestling matches, at school functions and we get regular reports from his older brother, Greg, who works in the mail department at the News-Press

Brian has two slugs in his body, one in a hip and the other near the roots of the nerve system in the neck He will have surgery to repair a shattered jaw as soon as the swelling goes down, his father, Gary, said

He is breathing through an opening in his neck and is taking food through tubes in his nostrils

Brian is not lacking in friends He has had many teenagers call on him with words of encouragement He needs that strength from the younger set He's been hurt very severely but the strength of his young body is working in his favor.

You can help, too Send him a card, to Room 968, Clarkson Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska 68105



HEALTH

Lawrence E. Lamb, M.D.

DES is not progesterone

By Lawrence Lamb, M.D.

DEAR DR LAMB — In 1952 I took progesterone to prevent miscarriage of my first daughter After reading articles about estrogen and other hormones, I've become alarmed about possible danger to my daughter's health. Could you give me some pertinent information?

DEAR READER — The problem that has been widely publicized involves DES (diethylstilbesterol), a synthetic estrogen. It is not the same thing as progesterone Progesterone is the other main female hormone besides estrogen It calms the uterine muscular contractions to promote implantation of the fertilized ovum at the beginning of pregnancy There is no evidence whatsoever that progesterone is involved in cancer of the uterus or in the subsequent occurance of cancer in an offspring. You can forget about that problem in your daughter's case entirely

The other point of some interest is how few women who took DES really ran any risk of causing a daughter to develop cancer The whole problem has been blown completely out of proportions in many news stories Dr Arthur L. Herbst, from the University of Chicago medical school, and colleagues have restudied the available data and find that the chance of a young woman developing cancer because her mother took DES is between one in 1,000 to one in 10,000

Add to that the estimate that in about a 20 year span, between one and 10 percent of pregnant women took DES and less than half of these pregnancies produced females You find then that the rate of vaginal cancer in pregnancies for this period was somewhere between one in 20,000 to one in two million pregnancies

The women who were enabled to have a baby who would not have completed pregnancy without medical help may have been between one and 10 percent of all the women who were pregnant I wonder how many of these women who were enabled to have their own healthy normal child (the usual outcome of having used DES to prevent a miscarriage) feel they were improperly treated Given the risk of one in 20,000 to one in two million of having a daughter who would have a cancer problem in adult life, or doing without a child of her own, I wonder how many women would have been willing to take that level of risk

Even though the risk was small, I still think that any woman whose mother used DES during pregnancy should be carefully followed for any early sign of changes that might be a malignancy Early detection of almost any cancer still provides the best chance for an effective permanent cure

AS TIME GOES BY

Merchants prepare

FORTY YEARS AGO
—1938—

Nebraska City merchants were prepared to seek the cooperation of Waubonsie Bridge officials in an effort to provide free bridge fare for area residents who traded in Nebraska City .Palmyra farmers voted against the provisions of a farm bill pending in Congress during a meeting there Coach "Jug" Brown's Falls City won its fourth consecutive conference title by defeating Nebraska City High School 30-13...The News-Press invited 100 local business and professional men to an "open house" to see how a paper is put together

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
—1963—

Elizabeth Taylor gave birth to a son The Dunbar Wolves mauled Douglas, 56-45. Arnold Draeger led the way with 19 points. Lee Grube posted 25 points to lead Johnson past Cook, 56-26...Mrs Arthur Sweet was elected chairman of St. Mary's Episcopal Church Altar Guild...Elmer Neujahr was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Syracuse City Council caused by the resignation of Orville Carnes...Robert Crosby took over as Nebraska's 27th chief executive. .Peru State, led by Bob Davis' 26 points, beat Wayne State, 73-64.

TEN YEARS AGO
—1968—

Mrs Emil Volkmer was the chairman for the Mother's March of Dimes and Mrs John Eilers was the co-chairman ..Major construction work at Consumers Public Power District's Cooper Nuclear Station two miles south of Brownville was scheduled to start in February...Nebraska Citians were urged to watch for the no left turn signs on Central Avenue which were installed by the City Street Department...Total voter registration in Otoe County stood at 6,231, according to County Clerk Gerald Schmitz...Walt Wenzel was president of the Lourdes Activities Association.

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The Prayer For Today From The Upper Room

Great is his faithfulness, his loving kindness begins afresh each day (Lamentations 3:23 TLB)

PRAYER: Father, keep our lives open daily to You and Your word, that we may keep a healthy perspective for life. Amen.

PURAC zeroes in on problems

By Ink Dipper

It was in April, 1976, that John Johnston, chief of the Personal Radio Division of the FCC, and his staff decided that the booming field of citizens band radio needed more attention The result of this meeting was the creation of the Personal Use Radio Advisory Committee, or PURAC as it is called in the corridors of the FCC.

"It was felt that in order for Chief Johnston to properly administer CB as it began to boom, it was necessary to involve the public as much as possible," Bob Cassler, legal counsel for the division, explained "To do this in an orderly manner and to get organized input, an Advisory Committee made up of individuals from all segments of the CB world could be greatly beneficial"

An announcement of the creation of the PURAC organization was made and all were invited to respond From the many volunteers, 180 persons were selected The group represents individual users, manufacturers, CB clubs, retailers, traffic safety people, law enforcement agencies — people from all walks of CB life. It's really a geat cross-section.

The project is worth mentioning, as we review 1977, because the first results of PURAC became evident last year. PURAC provided pressure for adding the 13 channels. It was a direct result of PURAC that Part 95 was rewritten in understandable language. The technical standards for manufacturing both mobile and stationary units involved some recommendations of PURAC

As this column is being written four papers about areas of concern for all CBers are in the process of completion They cover the dissemination of information to the public, operator training programs, public safety uses, and local interference The full committee has moved to have the four task forces' recommendations transmitted to the FCC for its action

Though problems like CB equipment thefts, electron magnetic compatability, channel clutter, etc, have not been completely studied, or at least sufficiently to bring specific recommendations, it is on PURAC's agenda The present specifications for CB manufacturing will make a giant step forward in combating television interference which has caused so many complaints Now, PURAC is urging that television set manufacturers make further technical corrections in television receivers to guard against CB signal invasion The combination of both efforts should eliminate this problem within a few years as the profiferation of new sets and units becomes evident

One of the steps taken in the area of public safety has been the development of the 0911 call sign for state police Though the FCC has had a million requests from local, state, county and other law enforcement agencies for a uniform call sign no single one that would serve all could be devised So, the start was for the state police with the formula of K (two letters for state) and 0911 (KTN (Tennessee) 0911) in all states A search is on for other formulas for other agencies An operator training program has been high on PURAC's list of problems

The FCC has consistently refused to require tests before granting licenses, a very common suggestion. However, PURAC will recommend that a comprehensive training program be developed and, then, disseminated throughout the country, utilizing CB organizations, high school driver classes, civic clubs and polic and fire departments It has been obvious to FCC regulators that the development of a uniform broadcasting discipline will greatly aid CB's health The patient right now, they say, is suffering from the growing pains of youth A trained operator who knows how to handle his strength will be a valuable and helpful citizen

PURAC's charter ends in April, 1978. Like all volunteer groups, it has been difficult to keep viable But, it has made some very worthwhile contributions to the nation's most personal medium — CB

CB CONVAC

Today In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Jan 8, the eighth day of 1978. There are 357 days left in the year

Today's highlight in history:

On this date in 1815, American forces under General Andrew Jackson defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans, the closing engagement in the War of 1812.

On this date

In 1642, the Italian astronomer, Galileo, died.

In 1679, the French explorer, La Salle, reached Niagara Falls.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson outlined 14 points for peace after World War I.

In 1923, France began the military occupation of the Ruhr Valley in Germany

In 1959, Premier Charles de Gaulle became President of France.

In 1961, two trains collided near Woerden in the Netherlands, killing 91 people.

Ten years ago: A massive cold wave across the United States sent temperatures below zero in 35 states Only two states — Florida and Hawaii — reported readings above freezing.

Five years ago: America's Henry Kissinger and North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho resumed Vietnamese peace talks in Paris

One year ago: President-elect Jimmy Carter announced that Vice President-elect Walter Mondale would visit Western Europe and Japan soon after the Carter Administration took office.

Today's birthdays: Former White House aide Sherman Adams is 79 years old.

Thought for today: You only grow when you are alone — a Hindu proverb.

Berry's World



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"ONE thing's for sure It's NOT EASY to change your energy AND your eating habits at the same time!"