



POOR RICHARD'S ALMANACK, ghod knows what number, is published as a post-mailing prior to the November, 1970, FAPA mailing to save the membership of its editor, rich brown, who resides at 410 - 61st St., Apt. D4, Brooklyn, NY 11220. Cover by Joe Staton. Interiors by Bill Rotsler. Mimeography via QWERTYUIOPress. October 25, 1970. Support the Shaw Fund.

"Better one of them should die than one of us."

WHITE RABBIT I don't believe I've read a fan column this month that didn't, somewhere in it, have a sub-section entitled "White Rabbit," and so I might as well have one, too, only out in front.

If you stretch your memory back to antiquity, or the last time I contributed something to FAPA, you may recall a loosly-knit essay on Drugs, set partially as a "reply" to Howard DeVore. In the year that has passed since writing that piece, I began editing FOCAL POINT with Arnie Katz, during the course of which Howard had the occasion to write suggesting it was Arnie, not I, who was keeping him on the FP mailing list. He also offered to do some printing for FOCAL POINT. I wrote him, apologizing for Pushing His Buttons (how long has it been since that was an "in" phrase?); he admitted as how he didn't mind druggies as much as he disliked people advocating taking drugs.

Since I never replied to Howard's reply, not only did he never do any printing for FOCAL POINT but he no doubt feels that the hatchet may not be buried. Actually, though, it is; I'm just a lousy correspondent. (Sorry, Howard.)

Some people -- Boyd Raeburn, Bob Coulson, Harry Warner, Gregg Calkins spring to mind -- had some comments about my last article/essay that should have had a reply. I didn't because I'm a lousy FAPA member. Like the pile of unanswered letters, my FAPA mailings lie around, check-marked and ready for comment, until August or September when I go through my Fall cleaning and pack my fmz so they do me no good when it's again time to go through my yearly hastily rushed-out composed-on-stencil FAPAzine. If only I could, just once, Get Organized and write down my replies, why, then, you would see a much better FAPAzine out of me. But such is not the case. (Sorry, FAPA.)

So now it's been a year and I don't remember exactly who said what. Replies addressed to no one are not replies. But they will have to do.

Someone said, for example, that the English system of dealing with heroin addicts (English System=give the addict his dope) has not proven successful. To which I'd say, it depends on what you mean by successful. England's big drug problem is speed, not heroin. But there are certain short-comings of the English system, nonetheless: some addicts kick the

habit (or graduate onto speed) and then sell their free dope to others. The English System is particularly vulnerable to this, since, despite its liberal approach, it's still Victorian enough not to allow the addict any pleasure: the dosage they're allowed is sufficient to sustain them. not enough to get off on. So the addict can either get other people's prescriptions, forge them, or graduate onto speed if he wants his kicks. And he wouldn't be a heroin addict if he didn't. So, whoever you were that said that the English system has its short-comings, you are certainly right. It does. But it has eliminated millions of dollars of profit from organized crime, because it's no longer profitable to get addicts started on heroin; it's too easy to obtain. Compared to just about any other country in the world, England has fewer young addicts, because it's not profitable. (It has gone up among the young of late because of the heavy use of speed: many speed freaks use heroin to come down (crash) with, because the only other thing they can use, barbiturates, causes convulsions and it's too easy to OD on barbs. But here we're not really talking about the same thing; someone who's using heroin to crash on speed is not the "innocent" most drug laws are set up to protect.)

However, whoever you are, I would say that short-comings and all, the English System has done enough of the things it set out to do that it should at least be tried here. It would probably do all that its supporters originally said it would, and more, if there were not the Victorian bugaboo preventing them from giving an addict enough of his sauce to actually enjoy it. But as Don Marquis said, you can't have everything.

Someone wanted to take some young addicts -- I misremember if it was heroin or speed or maybe glue that they were supposed to be addicted to -- and line them up and shoot them. Perhaps I let myself in for this; after all, I had said that one should sympathize with the victim (you and me) rather than the criminal (the addict) and giving the addict his dope would allow him to live a life where he wouldn't have to be a criminal. As things stand now, the addict is both a criminal and a victim; he's a criminal because he's a victim and a victim because he's a criminal.

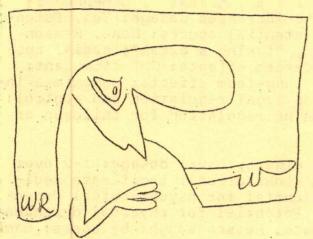
Well, whoever you are, off hand I can think of one young heroin addict you'll never get the chance to line up against the wall and shoot. He was 12 years old. He was black. He lived in Harlem.

Can you, whoever you are, imagine what it is like to be 12, living in Harlem, and black? It's about 12 years of age, you know, that a black person really starts to understand how this whole fucking racist society is set up against him, to keep him down and out. And Harlem is that place where sanitation men collect garbage so seldom that it piles up and collects rats like some people have Harpies, largely so the white folks can point to it as an eyesore and say that if they really wanted they wouldn't have to live in such squalor... It's a place where whores and hustlers and two-bit hoods take over after dark. Police? The only time you ever see them in Harlem is when Martin Luther King or H. Rap Brown or some other black man shows up to tell . them they don't have to live like a nigger. Otherwise, cops are invisible in Harlem.

Billie Hamilton's mother sold her ass on the streets of Harlem because welfare just didn't come through with enough for food. He should not have died in an alleyway from a massive heroin overdose. He was young, this is the land of opportunity, and the world is an oyster. Sure.

Heroin used to be a black problem. It's becoming more and more a white problem. There are reasons for blacks and whites to despair, ghod knows, and despair is one of the common denominators; it's part of what the hard drug addict is trying to escape from. "We live in such a senseless, stupid world," a Nobel prize-winning Philosopher was quoted as saying in The New York

Times, "that if I were young, I'd devote myself to drugs and fornication."
Funny you should say that...



Little Billie Hamilton bought himself a farm, and it doesn't matter because he was just a slum kid, and a black slum kid, at that. Anyone who gets himself mixed up with hard drugs at age 12 has got to be some kind of a nut, right? Anyway, the whole world would be in better shape if people were held responsible for their actions. He killed himself. It's probably what he wanted to do in the first place.

You won't have to line Billie Hamilton up against any wall to shoot him, whoever you are. He's already dead; he lined up against the alley wall and shot himself. Like a moth into a flame, with heroin.

Someone else was telling me that drugs are escapes from reality. So is beer. So, for that matter, is reading science fiction. Of the three, reading science fiction may be the least enjoyable.

And there's still -- despite widespread use of drugs among fans, and lots and lots of open discussion of the subject -- a point of confusion about soft drugs (like grass), hallucinogens (peyote/mescaline, LSD) and the Hard Stuff (heroin, speed, etc.). So, from Dr. Joel Fort's "The Complete Mind-Altering Drug and Pill Handbook," let's take a look at what these various things are in relation to one another:

\*ALCOHOL: Whisky, gin, beer, wine. Slang names: booze, hooch, suds. Usual dose for adults: 1½ oz. gin or whisky, 12 oz. beer in period of two to four hours. Method of taking: swallowing liquid. Legitimate medical uses: rare, sometimes used as sedative (for tention). Potential for psy-chological dependence: High. Potential for tolerance (leading to increased dosage): Yes. Potential for physical dependence: Yes. Overall potential for abuse: High. Reason drink is sought by users: To relax; to escape from tentions, problems, inhibitions; to get "high" (euphoria); seeking manhood or rebelling (particularly those under 21); social custom and conformity; massive advertising and promotion, readily available. Usual short-term effects: CNS depressant; relaxation (sedation), sometimes euphoria; drowsiness, impaired judgment, reaction time, coordination and emotional control; frequent aggressive behavior and driving accidents. Usual long-term effects: Diversion of energy and money from more creative and productive pursuits; habituation; possible obesity with chronic excessive use, irreversible damage to brain and liver, addiction with severe withdrawal illness (DTs). Form of legal regulation and control: Available and advertised without limitation in many forms with only minimal regulation by age (21 or 18), hours of sale, location, taxation, ban on bootlegging and driving laws. Some

"black market" for those under age and those evading taxes; minimal penalties.

\*CAFFEINE: Coffee, tea, Coca-Cola, No-Doz, APC. Adult dosages from a number of cups to bottles, 5 mg., over 2-4 hour period. Method of taking: swallowing liquid or with liquid. Legitimate medical uses: Mild stimulant; treatment of some forms of coma. Potential for psychological dependence: moderate. Potential for tolerance leading to increased dosage: Yes. Potential for phisical dependence: No. Overall potential abuses: None. Reason sought by users: for a pick-up or stimulant; "taking a break"; social custom, advertising, ready availability. Short-term effects: CNS stimulant; increased alertness; reduction of fatigue. Long-term effects: sometimes insomnia or restlessness; habituation. Form of legal regulation and control: Available and advertised without limit with no regulation for children or adults.

\*NICOTINE (and coal tar): Cigarettes, cigars. Usual dosage: 1-2 over 1-2 hour period. Method of taking: smoking (inhalation). Legitimate medical uses: None; used as an insecticide. Potential for psychological dependence: High. Potential for tolerance: Yes. Potential for physical dependence: No. Overall potential for abuse: Moderate. Reason sought by users: Same as for caffeine. Usual short-term effects: CNS stimulant; relaxation (or distraction) from the process of smoking. Long-term effects: Lung (and other) cancer, heart and blood vessel disease, cough, etc.; habituation; diversion of energy and money; air pollution, fire. Form of legal regulation & control: Available and advertised without limit with only minimal regulation by age, taxation and labeling of packages; advertising soon to be off television.

\*SEDATIVES: Alcohol, see previous page. Barbiturates, Nembutal, Seconal, Phenobarbital; Doriden (Gluthethimide); Chloral hydrate; Miltown, Equanil (Meprobamates). Dosages from 50 to 500 mg. Method of taking: Swallowing pills or capsules. Legitimate medical use: Treatment of insomnia and tention; induction of anesthesia. Potential for psychological dependence: High. Potential for tolerance: Yes. Potential for physical dependance: Yes. Overall potential for abuse: High. Reason sought: To relax or sleep; to get "high" (euphoria); widely prescribed by physicians, both for specific and non-specific complaints; general climate encouraging taking pills for everything. Slang names: Barbs, yellow jackets, dolls, red devils, phennies, goofers. Usual short-term effects: CNS depressants; sleep induction; relaxation (sedation); sometimes euphoria; drowsiness, impaired judgment, reaction time, coordination, emotional control; relief of anxiety, tension; muscle relaxation. Usual long-term effects: Irritability, weight loss, diversion of energy and money, habituation, addiction with severe withdrawal illness (like DTs). Form of legal regulation and control: Available in large amounts by ordinary medical prescription which can be repeatedly refilled or can be obtained from more than one physician; widely advertised and "detailed" to MDs and pharmacists; other manufacture, sale, or possession prohibited by Federal drug abuse and similar State (dangerous) drug laws; moderate penalties, widespread illicit traffic.

\*STIMULANTS. Caffeine and Nicotine, see above. Amphetamines: Benzadrine, methodrine, dexedrine; preludin; cocaine. Slang names: Pep pills, wakeups, bennies, cartwheels, crystal, speed, meth, dexies or Xmas trees (spansules); coke, snow. Usual adults dosgage: 2.5 - 5.0 mg., except cocaine, which is variable; about 4 hours duration. Method of taking: Swal-

lowing pills, capsule or injecting in vein. For cocaine, sniffing or injecting. Legitimate medical uses: Treatment of obesity, narcolepsy, fatigue, depression. With cocaine, anesthesia of the eye and throat. Potential for psychological dependence: High. Potential for tolerance leading to increased dosage: Yes. Potential for physical dependence: No. Overall potential for abuse: High. Reason drug is sought: For stimulation and relief of fatigue; to get high (euphoria); general climate encouraging taking pills for everything. Short-term effects: CNS stimulants; increased alertness, reduction of fatigue, loss of appetite, insomnia, often euphoria. Long-term effects: Restlessness, irritability, weight loss, toxic psychosis (mainly paranoid); diversion of energy and money; habituation. Form of legal regulation and control: Amphetamines, same as sedatives; cocaine, same as narcotics, below.

\*TRANQUILIZERS: Librium (Chlordiazepoxide); Phenothiazines (Thorazine, Compazine, Stelazine); Reserpine (Rauwolfia). Dosage varies from 1 mg. to 25 mg. Method of taking: swallowing pills or capsules. Legitimate medical use: Treatment of anxiety, tension, alcoholism, neurosis, psychosis, psychosomatic disorders and vomiting. Potential for psychological dependence: Minimal. Potential for tolerance: No. Potential for physical dependence: No. Overal potential for abuse: Minimal. Reasons sought by user: Medical (including psychiatric) treatment of anxiety or tension states, alcoholism, psychoses and other disorders. Short-term effects: Selective CNS depressants; relaxation, relief of anxiety-tension; suppression of hallucinations or delusions, improved functioning. Long-term effects: Sometimes drowsiness, dryness of mouth, blurring of vision, skin rash, tremor; occasionally jaundice, agranulocytosis. Forms of legal regulation and control: Same as sedatives, except not usually under specific Federal or State drug laws; negligible illicit traffic.

\*NARCOTICS(opiates, analgesics): Opium, heroin, morphine, codeine, percodan, demerol, methadol, cough syrups (Cheracol, Hycodan, Romilar). Slang names: Op, Horse, H, junk, smack, shit, dolly. Dosages vary: opium, 10-12 pipes; heroin, bag or paper with 5-10% heroin; morphine, 15 mg.; codeine, 30 mg.; percodan, tablet; demerol, 50-100 mg.; cough syrups, two to four bottles. Method of taking: Smoking (inhalation), injecting in muscle or vein; swallowing. Legitimate medical uses: Treatment of severe pain, diarrhea and cough. Potential for psychological dependence: High. Potential for tolerance: Yes. Potential for physical dependence: Yes. Overall potential for abuse: High. Reason drugs are sought by users: To get high (euphoria); as an escape; to avoid withdrawal symptoms; as a substitute for aggressive and sexual drives which cause anxiety; to conform to various subcultures which sanction use; for rebellion. Short-term effects: CNS depressants; sedation, euphoria, relief of pain (withdrawal symptoms); impaired intellectual functioning and coordination. Long-term effects: Constipation, loss of appetite and weight, temporary impotency or sterility; habituation, addiction and unpleasant and painful withdrawal illness. Form of legal regulation and control: Available (except heroin) by special (narcotics) medical prescriptions; some available by ordinary prescriptions or over-thecounter; other manufacture, sale or possession prohibited under State and Federal narcotics laws; severe penalties, extensive illicit traffic.

<sup>\*</sup> CANNABIS (marijuana, hashish). Slang names: pot, grass, tea, weed, stuff, boo, reefers, joints. Usual dosage: one cigarette (marijuana) or one drink/cake (hashish). Method of taking: smoking (inhalation) or swallowing. Legitimate medical use: Treatment of depression, asthma, tension,

loss of appetite, sexual maladjustment and narcotic addiction. Potential for psychological dependence: Moderate. Potential for tolerance: No. Potential for physical dependence: No. Overall potential for abuse: Moderate. Reason sought by users: to get high, to excape; to relax, socialize; to conform to various sub-cultures which sanction its use; for rebellion, attraction of behavior labeled as deviant; availability. Short-term effects: Relaxation, euphoria, increased appetite; some alteration of time perception, possible impairment of judgment and coordination (Probably CNS depressant). Long-term effects: Usually none; possible diversion of energy and money. Form of legal regulation and control: Unavailable (although permissible) for ordinary medical prescription. Possession, sale and cultivation prohibited by State and Federal narcotic or marijuana laws. Severe penalties. Widespread illicit use and traffic.

\*HALLUCINOGENS: LSD, Psilocybin, STP, DMT, Mescaline (Peyote). Slang names: Acid, sugar, cubes, trips, mushrooms, cactus. Dosage and duration vary: 150 micrograms for LSD (10-12 hrs.); 25 mg. (approx.) for psilocybin. (6-8 hrs.); ?? for STP (48-??? hrs.) and DMT (1-2 hrs.); 350 mg. for mescalin (12-14 hrs.). Method of taking: Swallowing liquid, capsule, pill, sugar cube or "dot" (on paper); chewing plant. Legitimate medical uses: Experimental study of mind and brain functions; enhancement of creativity and problem-solving; treatment of alcoholism, mental illness and the dying person. (Projected use: Chemical warfare.) Potential for psychological dependence: Minimal. Potential for tolerance leading to increased dosage: Yes, but extremely rare. Potential for physical dependence: No. Overall potential for abuse: Moderate. Reason sought by users: Curiousity; seeking for meaning and consciousness expansion; rebellion, attraction of behavior labeled as deviant; availability. Short-term effects: Production of visual imagery (hallucinations), increased sensory awareness; ego-loss, anxiety, nasea, impaired coordination; schizophrenic state, sometimes consciousness expansion. Long-term effects: Usually none; sometimes precipitates or intensifies an already existing psychosis; more commonly can produce a panic reaction when person is improperly prepared.

There are other sub-classifications, but four pages is already enough. Too much, Howard might say. As it is, I hope that pointing out that after coffee and maybe tranquilizers, grass is about the least harmful item on the list. Which reminds me that someone said that not enough is known about marijuana to make any determination.

Friend, whoever you are, you're all wet. Marijuana has been around for 2,000+ years; there've been hundreds of studies, commissions, researches -- and despite a persistant desire to find something to pin on pot, they have not been able to do so. If this is advocacy . . .

If I've forgotten anything, I'm sure someone will remind me.

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MY BACK PAGES

I should have urged you to contribute to the Shaw Fund at the very outset, rather than writing in here near the end. The fund deserves more prominent display. For those of you who reamin isolated in fapa, taking little or not interest in what goes on about you outside, the Shaw Fund was launched a coupla few months ago to bring Bob Shaw to the U.S. on a Special Fund to attend the world convention in Boston this year.

Bob shouldn't need an introduction to any of you -- if he does, forget about this section and skip on to something else. I'm not going to look like a fool in front of 64 people just to tell you that Bob Shaw was one of the founders of SLANT, is and has been a mainstay of Irish Fandom, and co-author of The Enchanted Duplicator. If that doesn't jog your memory, you really should skip over this section.

The idea of the Fund -- as with the last two Special Funds upon which putstanding Irish Fans were brought to this country -- is to reward BoSh for the quality of his fanac over these 20 years, and then some. I don't think FAPA should contribute anything as FAPA, but I do think the individual members of FAPA could come through with a buck, or two or three, to get the \$1,000 we'd like to get for Bob to tour the U.S. In the past two months we've gotten a quarter of the way to that goal, but we still need contributions.

There are a number of ways you can help. One is to send a contribution, in any amount, to me. If you send \$1 or more, Terry Carr will send you 20 fanzines of recent years, which I guess most of you might not find your cup of tea (although Terry assures me that there is some very fine stuff being disbursed) -- though it's a way for some of you hermits to find out what's going on Out There in the world of fandom-at-large. (And if that's still not your cup of tea, we can skip sending you the fmz and let you bask in the pure joy of having done something Good for its own sake.) If you send \$30 or more, you're entitled to a lifetime subscription to Dick Geis' SFR. If straight contributions aren't your speed (or cannabis, for that matter..) then you still might want to avail yourself of one or more of the Special fanzines that have been or will be published for the Shaw Fund.

The fanzines that have already been published are MICROCOSM #14 (50¢ from Dave Burton, 5422 Kenyon Dr., Indianapolis, Ind.), containing material by the Irish John Berry about BoSh, Calvin Demmon, Greg Shaw, Lee Lavell, Earl Evers and Arnie Katz; and FOCAL POINT 12.5 (available from me at \$1), with reprints by Burbee, Boggs, BoSh and G. Gordon Dewey, and new material by Calvin Demmon, Ted White, Arnie Katz, my wife Colleen and myself.

Terry Carr is reviving INNUENDO to benefit the Shaw Fund. Copies will be \$2 each from him (35 Pierrepont St., Brooklyn, NY 11201), and worth it. The Enchanted Duplicator will soon be published in a new edition, illustrated by Ross Chamberlain and worth the \$1 price-tag for the illustrations alone from my co-editor Arnie Katz (Apt. 6-B, 59 Livingston St., Brooklyn, NY 11201). NOPE 12 will feature a cartoon strip by Steve Stiles, art by Grumb and Deitch, and articles Ted White and Arnie Katz, as well as fine material by the editor, Jay Kinney from whom the issue will be available for 50¢ (215 Willoughby Ave., Apt. 1212, Brooklyn, NY 11205). BEABOHEMA 13 will also be a special issue for the fund, available for \$1 from the edifor, Frank Lunney (Box 551, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa. 18015), and INFINITUM 5 will soon be available from Dave Lewton (735 E. Kessler Blvd., Indianapolis, Ind. 46220). Ordering any or all of these fanzines will help the Shaw Fund because all proceeds will be donated directly to the fund. Needless to say, short of contributing, cash is the only way to obtain these zines. I am also selling back issues of FOCAL POINT, at 5/\$1, with all proceeds going to the Fund. The issues available are Vol. 2 Nos. 3, 5, and 7-through-16.

We also have a number of fanzines up for auction; we need more good,

old and/or rare fanzines to put up for auction; we deeply appreciate those types of contributions, too. I'm not going to list all the items we have receiving bids at the present time. Representative, though, of what we have to offer are a complete file of SLANT (currently at \$41 bid), WARHOON 7-26 inclusive (also at \$41); FUTURIA FANTASIA 1 (at \$27); THE SCIENCE FICTION FAN #1 (at \$3.50); the QUANNISH (at \$5) and WHY IS A FAN? (with a minimum bid of \$3) -- to name just a few. If Old Fanzines happen to be your thing, you can subscribe to FOCAL POINT and read the Bob Shaw news pages to get the rest.

(As Bob himself might say at this point, the rest might do you -- and the Shaw fund -- good.)

There's other ways people can help, too, besides coughing up the cash. Bob's trip to the U.S., at least so far as it is planned, is openended. Which is to say, he's going to be free after the convention to go where he pleases -- and where he pleases will probably be where he feels most welcome. That, of course, will be determined by a number of factors, including money and time, but will include factors like whether he's been informed there are pipple who'd like to meet him. And that's something, I think, that's up to fans, and fan-groups, individually.

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CAN'T KEEP FROM CRYING SOMETIMES By the time this reaches most of you, assuming Ted's mimeo doesn't break down or the Post Awful likewise, the off-year elections will be upon us. By the time this gets read, if most of you are like me, they'll be over. So the short political meanderings to follow will be moot.

I think New York State will be sending its first Conservative Senator to Congress this year. Not that New York, one of the most Progressive States in the Union, is caught up in a Conservative back-lash, as is the case across the country; the majority of the people in the State will vote for one of two liberals (or one Liberal and one liberal, as Ted White might put it), thus allowing James Buckley to eek in on 37 per cent of the vote, which he'll get from the organized Conservatives and the Republicans of conservative hue who feel they are not represented by Goodell.

I'm not one to wax enthusiastic about most elected politicians. Goodell is an exception: He's a man of exceptional courage and a moral leader in the real sense of both words. When it mattered, he was there. He put himself on the line more than once when it was not politically wise to do so because it mattered. It will be with some distaste that I will vote against him in this election.

Not for Buckley, but for his Democratic opponent, Ottinger. I don't think Ottinger is half the man that Goodell is -- although he has done some good things and is now claiming to have done more -- but he does have a better chance, the only chance, to win. And I'll probably end up hating myself for it, just as I've ended up wishing I had not "compromised" my yote in previous elections voting for Johnson and Humphrey, neither of whom I liked, but who were at least (or seemed, at least) the lesser of two evils.

If Buckley wins, he will have Spiro T. Agnew, the man who is every

other inch a gentleman, to thank, while we will have him, and ourselves, to blame here in New York. Because Agnew has attacked Goodell, many liberals who might otherwise switch horses in mid-stream to keep Buckley from winning, will feel bound to vote for Goodell even though the polls show he has little chance of winning. If that happens, and I think it will, then it can be said that Agnew correctly gauged the conscience of the liberal...

Politically, I see less and less that is desirable in the United States these days. The Nixon Administration has dragged us, through a <u>simultaneous</u> inflation and recession -- something that's never been done before -- back to the Eisenhower era. As the problems of race relations become more tense, all the progress that was made -- as little as that was -- is swept under the rug and forgotten. Commissions are appointed and, when they come up with answers that do not fit preconceived bias, reviled. Rather than attack the roots of violence, the Administration -- and conservatives in particular -- talk tough and pass laws suspending our constitutional rights to encourage our peace officers to commit violence on the citizenry which can only cause more violence.

I told myself, when Nixon won the Presidency, that things were not going to be good. Each morning, for four years, I would have to wake up each morning and tell myself, "Oh, God. Richard Nixon is President of these United States." And it has been much worse than I expected -- from the state of our economy, to our continued involvement in Vietnam, to the air of intimidation and the way Nixon and friends make political capital on people's fears -- much worse.

And it looks like we have a long way to go before we hit bottom. But we're getting there.

--rich brown, 1970

