



## Why?????

"Why?" is the question that Americans are asking. Why did we allow the Pueblo to be captured by a tenth rate power without a battle? Why haven't we, the most powerful nation in the world, done anything to retrieve it or its crew?

One week ago, when we sat down to write our editorials, the Pueblo affair was twenty-four hours old, and we were tempted to write on this subject. We did not do so because we were confident that, within the week, our leaders would take the necessary action to secure the release of the Pueblo and her crew. Now, more than ten days have elapsed since the occasion of this vicious act of piracy on the high seas, and our leaders do not seem to have the courage to do anything more than talk about it.

What has happened to the courage and convictions of this country's leaders? All we have been told is that they are doing everything possible to secure the release of this ship and her crew through diplomatic means. This means getting down on our knees and begging the Russians to intercede for us. This means going to the United Nations and doing more talking which is a waste of time; the North Koreans do not recognize the United Nations. And, in the meantime, we are allowing eighty-five officers and men of the United States Navy to remain prisoners of a nation that has taken them in an out-and-out act of war.

It is impossible for the citizens of the United States to comprehend what has gone on and what is going on with the information that has been released. We do know that we have a heritage we can be proud of and that we have never let any nation, big or small, push us around. We have always protected our own and have gone out of our way to protect those who believed in the principles that we believe in. We are losing thousands of our finest men and spending millions of dollars a day in Viet Nam fighting for a principle, yet on the Pueblo incident, all we are getting is a lot of hot air about diplomacy.

How will America be able to hold its head high if we let this open aggression and challenge to our honor go unanswered. No matter how you look at it North Korea has challenged the United States. It hijacked a ship at sea and kidnapped and is holding American men as prisoners - men who were led to believe that their country would protect them as they were being asked to protect their country.

The Pueblo incident is a national disgrace. The effects of our shameful lack of action may very well

be felt for years to come. Undoubtedly we have prepared a fertile ground for other such travesties to be perpetrated against us.

Diplomacy and worrying about our image worldwide on this matter must now be a thing of the past. We must act in our own best interests and in the interest of the future of the country TODAY! If it means using force to gain the release of the Pueblo and her men, or for putting down anyone else who wants to tamper with the United States then FORCE IT MUST BE! Let our enemies cry aggression and make us out to be bullies. Our honor is at stake. When you do something because you know it has to be done why should you fear the consequences. We can regain the respect of the world and be in a better position to command world peace if our enemies know that there will be severe consequences to their warlike actions.

We want our ship and our sailors back TODAY! America can not afford to let herself be trampled upon. Now is the time for action. And Why Not?

## For Your Convenience

As we have written in several editorials, since the first of the year, we need your subscriptions. We need them so that we can continue to bring Suffolk Life to you in its present format with pictures of you, your friends and neighbors, thought-provoking editorials and a "Letters to the Editor" column that gives you an opportunity to express your views on matters of interest to all Long Islanders. Many thousands of our readers have already sent in their subscriptions but there are also many thousands who haven't. As one of our friends said to us the other day, "I have not counted the money that I save by using Suffolk Life as a shopping guide, but it must amount to hundreds of dollars a year because hardly a week goes by that I don't take advantage of a "sale" or "special" advertised in Suffolk Life. In these days of the ever-rising cost of living, high taxes and just plain high prices, Suffolk Life is a real help to the housewife and consumer. Suffolk Life is the

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## SUFFOLK LIFE

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## Gun Regulations

Both Governor Rockefeller and President Johnson are pressing for new laws to regulate the ownership of all firearms. There are regulations on the books, in most states, that make it almost impossible for the average citizen to own or use a hand gun. Our leaders are now trying to formulate and pass laws that will take all firearms out of the hands of the people. The reasoning they offer is that the government has the responsibility to take guns out of the hands of the criminal element and the mentally deranged. The legislature would like to see all guns registered by their owners and a licensing fee paid on each registration.

To this publication it makes no sense to require the licensing of all firearms. There are over eighty-five million sportsmen in this country that use guns in hunting and, for the most part, they shoot safely and with caution. A minute fraction of gun owners use their weapons illegally, and it just doesn't seem logical that the vast majority of law abiding gunners should have to suffer because of the few that will misuse the privilege of bearing arms. The few that will turn guns to misuse cannot be stopped from obtaining them. The criminal element has very effective methods of obtaining guns and utilizing them, and you can be assured, that all the laws on the books are not going to make them register their firearms. Neither will the mentally deranged be stopped from obtaining and using weapons by new laws. If they are determined to use weapons they will steal them or devise other means to obtain them.

Licensing guns will only drive many owners underground. In case of a war it would give the enemy a master list of every gun owner making for easy confiscation of all arms. Improbable as this may seem it is possible.

Suffolk Life is against the licensing of all firearms. It will serve no functional purpose and only impose further restrictions and another form of taxation upon good law-abiding citizens. Most important of all, it erode away another one of our constitutional guarantees, — the right to bear arms.

We hope that our representatives from this area will take this into consideration when it is their turn to voice their opinions on this subject. And Why Not?

## Life For A Life

Last week the New York State Senate passed a bill that would impose upon those convicted of selling narcotics to minors a minimum sentence of fifteen to

twenty-five years and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. Suffolk Life congratulates the Senate for passing this bill unanimously. This is a much needed and strong first step by our legislators in their attempt to control the rampant growth of drug addiction. The bill still has to be passed by the Assembly and approved by Governor Rockefeller before it becomes law. We hope that it passes the Assembly as easily as it did the Senate.

In our opinion, the selling of narcotics or inducing prospective users to buy these illegal drugs is as vicious a crime as first degree murder. Drug addicts not only give up control of their bodies but surrender their minds and spirits as well to the effects of narcotics. Once hooked, most of them can no longer function as useful members of society. Many of them must turn to robbery and acts of violence to pay for their habit. Some become pushers of drugs themselves thereby spreading even further this body, mind and spirit robbing sickness.

The only way that the spread of narcotics is going to be stopped is to pass stronger laws and have courts with the courage to mete out the sentences prescribed by these laws. Only if those willing to break the law realize that the risk they are taking is greater than the return will they abandon their illegal pursuit. If our courts continue to hand down light sentences and allow pushers to plead for medical treatment because they are addicts themselves, we will not be able to curb the growth of addiction. The small pusher should be handled as severely as the major supplier, and once the small pushers are eliminated from the scene the backbone of the illicit drug business will be broken.

Force and punishment are the only language that these vicious parasites in our society understand. Drug addiction must be stopped. If it means that a person who sells drugs will be put away for the rest of his or her life then, we are sure, he or she will think twice before beginning this vicious practice. Minds, bodies and lives are at stake. The severest penalties are warranted. "Life" for a life. And Why Not?

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