

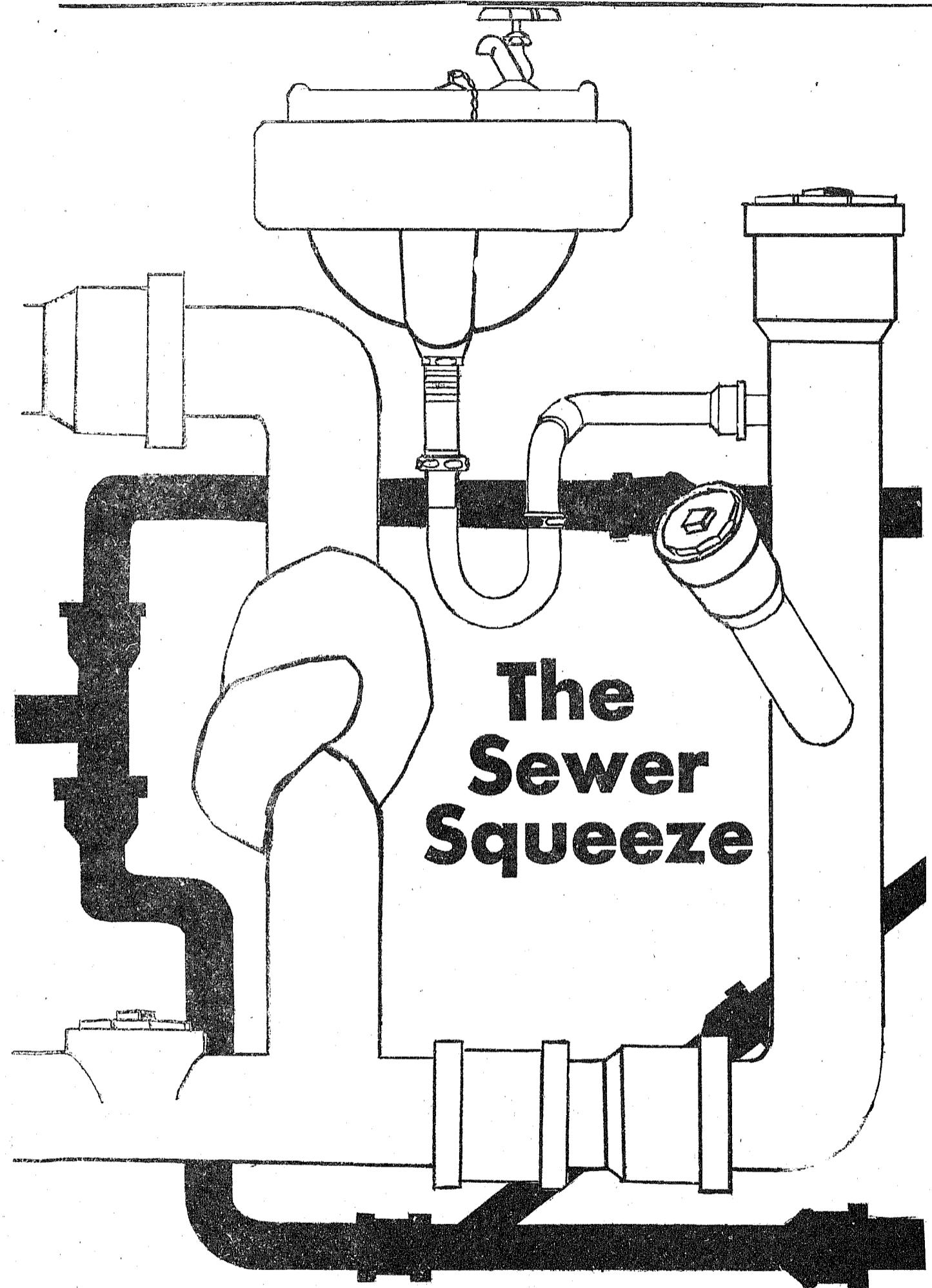
solares hill

"The highest point in Key West"

VOL. 1, NO. 4

Key West, Florida

April 12, 1971 - April 26, 1971



25¢

TOBER

What does Tober mean? It's a British carnival word which describes the excitement and the spirit of a special place:

Tober is the clean restrooms at the Citgo Station at Truman and White Streets.

Tober is mango blossoms first starting to bloom.

Tober is Marge's Turkey Soup at Sloppy Joe's.

Tober is a pitch-in covered dish community dinner at Mallory Dock at Sunday Sunset.

Tober is Syzygy.

Tober is the Gilmore's barn-raising spirit at the Community Pool.

What is Tober? It's what makes us say "That's Key West and I'm glad I'm here."

THE NEAR FUTURE

Solares Hill's future has been one of constant unknowns in these first few months of publication. You know, the old hills-and-valleys syndrome.

To be able to cope better with these hills and valleys, we will be publishing monthly during the summer.

This will allow us all to breathe easier—and with more tober—during Key West's heat wave.

After all, with most of Key West being in the valley of Solares Hill, it can get pretty hot. So enjoy your summer and enjoy us monthly.

Love,
The Staff

P.S. All subscription commitments will be honored for a full 26 issues, so put down that pen and stationery.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REQUEST

Lt. Terry Jones, Monroe County Sheriff's Department, has asked Solares Hill to make public the following information:

Persons wishing to give information concerning the missing dynamite should contact Lt. Jones, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, 500 Whitehead St., Key West. Telephone: 296-2424.



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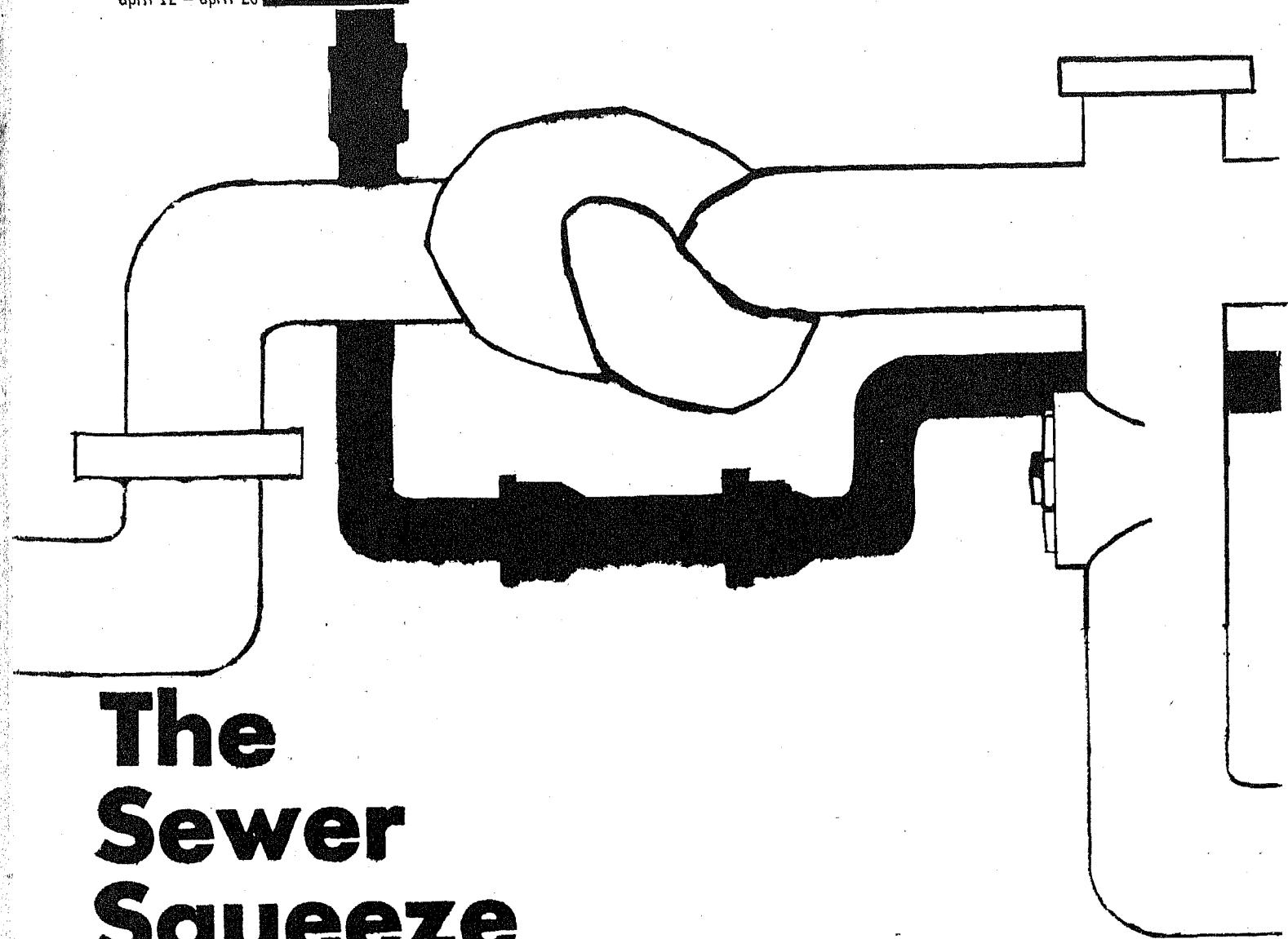
EDITORIAL..... MICHAEL PREWITT
EDITORIAL..... "DANCING BILL" HUCKEL
EDITORIAL..... STAN BECKER
COPY EDITOR..... JANET WOOD

ART DIRECTION..... PETER COSGROVE
BUSINESS MANAGER.... JAY FRIEDMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY..... LEE BALLARD
CIRCULATION..... WILLIAM GILLEN

Another Founding Father... Tennessee Williams

With a little help from our friends
R. Adm. & Mrs. W. F. Schlech, Bud Parker (belated), Nancy, Tom, Bobby "Press Pass" Brown, Jim Coan, Tom, Pauline, Peter

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The Sewer Squeeze

Michael Prewitt

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Ae & Ed.
- Henry Faulkner

system consists of 55 miles of sewer pipe connected to 7 pumping stations which move the waste to Station A, at the corner of Amelia and Thomas Streets. Station A then sends the untreated effluent into the sea, $\frac{1}{4}$'s of a mile off shore.

The 1953-54 improvement of the sewer system relied on a city bond issue and a Federal Government grant of \$900,000 for the capital improvement. At the time of installation, the Federal Government surveyed the effects of this untreated sewage or effluent on the ocean and found no pollution.

City Finance Director, Charles Aguero, told Solares Hill, March 29, "The question is this: how far can we cut back on our essential services—and we're already starting to cut back—and still maintain status as a chartered city."

The City of Key West is in a state of crisis. The problem is money. Sgt. Lastres is representing the Key West Police Dept. in their bid for higher salaries and a pension plan. The Police Dept.'s case has been well documented by the *Key West Citizen*. In this article Solares Hill looks at another vital municipal service, the sewer system. Unless some means for raising revenues is found, sewer service won't be provided. That is the fact looming over the island right now. But how did this situation arise?

"Dilution is no solution to pollution," rhymes Mr. Booth, Sanitation officer at the U.S. Naval Base. In an effort to stop the flow of Florida's untreated sewage, the State in late 1970 ordered that all municipalities must have modern treatment plants by 1974. And to insure that Florida's cities would begin working on this problem, the state set a deadline of January 1, 1971 when the city had to have an engineering firm under contract, drawing up preliminary plans for a sewer treatment system.

So the city of Key West is faced with these problems:

A. A deadline—which has already passed—for hiring an engineering firm to do preliminary work on a sewage treatment system.

B. An existing system of 55 miles of sewer pipe and 7 pumping stations which will require \$2,000,000 of renovation work before a new system can be installed.

C. An estimated \$4,000,000 cost of the new system, only half of which will be funded by Federal monies.

This is the sewer squeeze which has the potential of tying the City's sewer system in knots as illustrated on our cover. How will the City raise the needed money to renovate the existing system, comply with state deadlines, and finish a treatment system by January 1974?

Charles Aguero states that this problem of revenues has reached crisis proportions. How did the City get in such a state?

City Manager Stack answers these questions by pointing to the past. "No one seemed to give a damn when they should have. You can't blame the present Commission for this crisis. They inherited it from before."

And yet they inherited it in November, 1969. What steps has the Commission taken in the last year and a half to prevent this crisis? We see very few.

Let's think about the sewer system and the general municipal revenues and see what the Commission could have been doing and might do now to avoid this present crisis in city finances.

Nº 12928

CITY OF KEY WEST, Key West, Florida
 SEWER SERVICE: This bill is for service for three months ending with the date of bill. It is due upon presentation and becomes delinquent if not paid within 10 days from date of postmark.

Date & Code	Permit No.	Amount
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Jan. 1, 1971 City of \$4,000,000
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\$4 million TO BE PAID ON OR BEFORE JAN. 1, 1974

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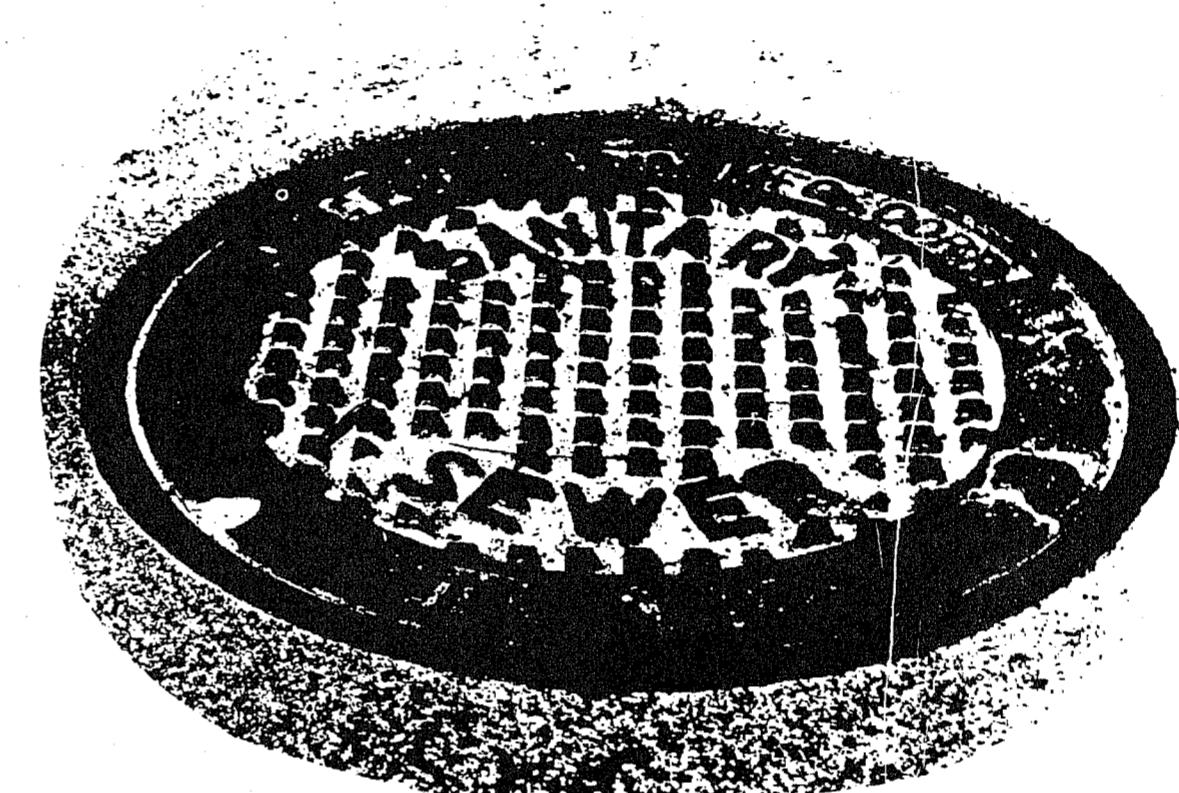
Nº 12928

CASHIER'S STUB

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Amount

\$ 4,000,000



The Solution

The cost of public works and general public administration has increased over 60 percent in the last 20 years - most of this increase occurring in the last 5 years.

Key West's budget of \$1,700,000 "got the job done" four years ago. But as city costs have skyrocketed, the budget has remained the same and no additional means have been utilized to raise more money. Now the city finds itself with one of the lowest paid police forces in the state. The city has the lowest sewer rate of any city of its size or larger in the state. And Key West is the only city in Florida's 24 most populous urban centers with no utility tax.

Why hasn't the City Commission raised the sewer rates, or proposed a utility tax or found another source of revenue to relieve this money

shortage? The accepted answer to the question is that to raise the taxes is political suicide. So each Commission has passed the fiscal problems onto its successor. And finally, a crisis.

But the imagined political suicide for the City Commission might become the murder of a municipality if something is not done soon. The first question one must ask is: Are we too late already?

There's the story of the high school English teacher who assigned her class a major term paper in September and said, "Now, class, you can turn this in at any time, but the deadline is May 1."

So in 1971 the State law requires that a referendum be taken to insure that the utility tax is not forced on the people

Saturday afternoon, March 27, City Attorney, Ignatius Lester, went before the hearing of the State Legislative delegation from Monroe County and asked that they repeal the 1959 State law which insured that before a utility tax was made law for Key West, there must be a referendum of the voters. This law was introduced in Tallahassee by Bernie Papy in 1959 to protect the taxpayers and citizens from a plan to increase revenues to pay for a comprehensive public works program proposed by the City Commission.

The sewer rates on the other hand will probably be raised very soon. The sewer rate - \$2.00 each month,

March 27, 1971 Key West asked the state delegation to repeal this 1959 statute so that the tax can be imposed without the popular vote. State Senator Bell expressed his doubt that such a bill would be passed since the voice of the people is important - and that the repeal couldn't be counted on until July 1, 1971 - even if it passed.

The utility tax will probably have to wait for a referendum and now it is the Commission's job to specify just where the monies raised by such a surcharge on utility bills will go. The Commission can counter claims of graft with a clear statement of which specific areas this money will be applied to.

Again comes the question of "Where does the money go?" The Commission must sell the public on the need for raising the sewer rate and for imposing a utility tax. They must explain in detail the advantages of the utility tax in reducing ad valorem property tax millage and they must open their plans to the

single family dwelling - is one of the lowest in the state. And these rates barely maintain the present system. Currently, the 1971 sewer account has a \$93,000 deficit. The public must realize that costs of all kinds have risen tremendously in the past five years - yet the sewer rate has remained the same. To insure basic sewer service, and to allow for the major renovation which the state has requested, the sewer rate must be raised.

The time for passing the buck has stopped. City Manager Stack has committed himself, for better or worse, to putting this city on a sound financial footing. It is time that we, the public, realize that a city budget that did the job in 1966 just won't make ends meet today. We must face the fact that we're going to have to pay today's dollar to get today's services.

On the other hand, the Commission has a responsibility to be candid with the public, to explain frankly the city's plight, and to be specific about where the new revenues will go.

The Hogan Affair

William Huckle

Recently, Mike Hogan, a senior at Key West High School, gave an oral book report before his English class. He had chosen the book "In the Middle Country," a study of the student protests at Kent State which had led up to the celebrated shooting incidents.

To dramatize his introduction, Mike Hogan set fire to a small American flag and asked of the class, "Does this disgust you?" They replied, "Yes, it does." Hogan said "Well, it disgusts me too, but is it worth shooting someone over?"

At that point, he went into his report. After the report was finished there was a question and answer period on it. Mike Hogan received an "A" for his report.

Mike Hogan was suspended for two weeks for the burning of the American flag in class. The Principal Mr. Glynn Archer, said that he considered it "an error in judgement" on the part of the student rather than a willful desecration of the flag.



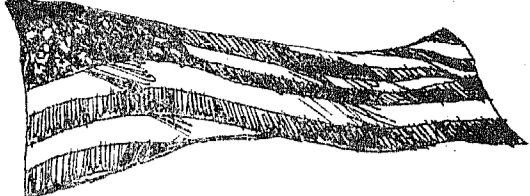
Margaret Carey: "The act itself wasn't that bad. It was just what everyone else put it up to be. He didn't intentionally mean to insult the flag. They put more into it than actually was there."

President of the Junior Class

Robert Dion: "It was an administrative matter. The policy of the administration was obviously approved by the school board in the past." Member, Monroe Board of Education

Mrs. Charles Vallet: "I'm square myself, and I feel that flag burning is completely wrong. He could have made his point some other way. However, there are other ways to punish students. I feel his suspension was unnecessary." President, Monroe County Council of the P.T.A.

FLORIDA STATUTE 779.21: Public Mutilation of Flag: "Whoever publicly mutilates, defames, or tramples upon or burns with intent to insult any flag, standard, colors, or ensign of the U.S. or of Florida shall be punished by imprisonment in the State prison or the county jail for not more than one year and a fine of not more than \$1000."



april 12 - april 26



Mrs. Virginia Wood:

"I'd like to think that the principal acted in haste in suspending the Hogan boy. It is unfortunate this sort of haste was so late in coming when a firm stand in the past has been missing. I take a dim view of our youngsters today who have refused to carry our colors, refused to join on the Pledge of Allegiance, but they are all still in school. Hogan's act was not rebellion or a contrived disrespect but rather an effort to wake up some apathetic young Americans. We need to applaud this young man, not discipline him."

Sue Vallet: "He shouldn't have been kicked out for it because it wasn't meant maliciously. He did it to open people's eyes to what's happening. This shows the lack of communication between students and the establishment. It's like they are striking out at this kid. You don't do things like that." Employee of Florida Disposal



Don Kozinko: "You either break the law or you don't. He didn't intend to insult the flag. Therefore he didn't break the law and he shouldn't have been punished." Sandalmaker on Greene Street.



under the Banyan Tree
BOUTIQUE
PIRATES ALLEY

EDITORIAL

Mike Hogan is now back in school after his two week suspension. Soon Key Westers will be saying, "Do you remember when that high school student - what was his name - burned the flag?" The Hogan Affair is not front page news anymore.

Why have we chosen to canvas the community to find out their reactions to this event, and why do we choose to editorialize about an issue that is rapidly being forgotten? Solares Hill has centered in on Mike Hogan's act because we feel this event contains a lesson for all of us in these rapidly changing times.

Who would have thought that the most dynamic, progress-oriented nation in the world would limit its' development of the S.S.T.? Yet new economic and environmental priorities prevailed and a program which would have been overwhelmingly approved even two or three years ago has been terminated.

The S.S.T. decision is symbolic of the basic, fundamental changes we are going through as a people and as a country. Many firmly held beliefs are being re-examined and rejected. Such a question as "What makes a man valuable to society" is answered differently today than from yesterday.

Our country was chartered in a time of great flux and our system was founded on the assumption that reasonable men will disagree often on many issues. This does not make the minority outcasts from the majority. On the contrary, respect and toleration for the minority view have been built into our political tradition. A community cannot meet its responsibility of understanding its members by exiling them.

Mike Hogan was not respected by being banished from school for two weeks. Nor was there mutual understanding between him and his community. Everything was left up in the air.

Solares Hill feels that this is not the last time that an issue involving strong social and political opinion is going to occur in Key West. What we wish to do here is to point up what we feel is a general guideline to follow for such events as they occur in the future.

The foremost value which we must strive to preserve in times of change is our sense of community. In short, we all live, play, work, relate and experience life together in the community of Key West. We know that values and ideas change. What must not change is our ability to live together peacefully.

Mike Hogan should not have been exiled from his community. He should have been asked to go out into the town, explain his act to many different people, and ask for their responses to it. As a student, he would have been participating in a learning experience both for himself and for the town. He would have found out why so many people reacted so strongly to what he did. Then, he could speak to his fellow students and teachers in an open assembly on what he learned.

Just as Solares Hill seeks many sides to a story it wishes to write, so Mike Hogan should have been sent out to discover the many sides to the story he unwittingly wrote. Maybe, then, he would do the same thing again; maybe he would never think of doing it again. Through this kind of investigation we can begin to understand many of the actions and values of others. Mike Hogan and others like him are not exiles to be banished for their beliefs or for their errors in judgement. They are our sons, our daughters, our community.

coney island

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Donald March

When SOLARES HILL asked me to interview Ron Stack, City Manager of Key West, I thought, "Far out! What's a city manager?" After spending an hour or so with Ron in his office at City Hall, I learned that the term, city manager, has a lot of different meanings for different people. Below are some of them.

MARCH: What qualifications are needed to be city manager? Did you study government at college or did you get a city manager's degree?

STACK: No, my business has been finance from field rep to office management to auditing to supervision. When I took this job, the City Commission was looking for an administrator with a little financial background. A city manager can be one of many things - he can be an engineer if the city's problem at the time is one of engineering. But at the time I took the job, the Commission was trying to solve financial problems - how to get money; what to do with it when they get it, etc. When I leave; when we get the money; they may say, "Well, now we're going to build with this money." Then they may look for someone with an engineering background.

MARCH: When do you think you'll be leaving?

STACK: You never can tell, but you don't take this job for the rest of your life. First of all, the pressures in this office are such that you don't want it to take too much out of you; it's good experience, it's a very interesting job, but it's not the type of job you'd want day in and day out because it can become irritating and boring.

When we get to a certain point, I may go to the Commission and say, "OK, now that we've gotten down the road so many miles, I figure you should hire an engineer or a man with public works background. We're going to rehabilitate the island; we're going to lay in new streets, new sidewalks, new sewer lines; we're going to build a community center; so we should have a man in here that would have this background to supervise these activities."

MARCH: Not being from Key West, I listen very closely to what I hear

As for this office, the door's al-

ways open. I talk to people every day about everything from personal, private problems to community problems. If I can't help, I'll try to send them to somebody who can; whether it be a doctor or a lawyer.

STACK: Well, I don't know. What do they get away with?

MARCH: They were implying that there was a lot of nest feathering, boondoggling, log rolling and pork chopping, meaning that the City Commission was more interested in making deals that would benefit themselves rather than the city.

STACK: The public is very much aware of what's going on. You may think you can pull the wool over their eyes but you'd better not try it. First of all, the public elects these officials; the Commission is not self-perpetuating. You don't become a City Commissioner because of who your father was. You go out there and you lay yourself on the line.

Of course, I didn't run for this office. The Commission appointed me. But to get back to them. They run; they go out there and campaign for three months. The public has three months to learn what they represent, what they are going to do.

The good thing about our system is that if the public feels that this Commission has not done its job, they can replace them in November with another Commission. So there's really not that much laying around the city, feathering nests.

MARCH: What are the channels of communication between the Commission and the public?

STACK: Twice a month the Commission holds a regularly scheduled meeting. When that meeting is adjourned, the mayor opens it up to the public. In the thirteen months that I've been sitting there, I've yet to see somebody be denied the right to be heard. Nine chances out of ten, you'll get an answer right then and there, because this is one of the last places in America that the public can be heard.

Try going before your state legislature and be heard. They'll throw you out of the hall. Try going before Congress and raise your hand to be heard; they'll hustle you out of there in a hurry. But your municipal government is one of the few places where a person can be heard.

As for this office, the door's al-

ways open. I talk to people every day about everything from personal, private problems to community problems. If I can't help, I'll try to send them to somebody who can; whether it be a doctor or a lawyer.

MARCH: What is it like to be on the City Commission?

STACK: It's not easy. They don't get paid for it. They put in a lot of hours.

MARCH: The City Commission doesn't get paid?

STACK: They get \$150 a month. But that's just a token payment. Anyone who runs for the Commission cannot consider the money as a factor proper. It's a lot of heartaches; very seldom do you get a pat on the back and hear, "Job well done."

When you make a ruling in someone's favor, he thinks he has it coming to him, that he got what he justly deserves. If the ruling is against someone, he's upset. Very seldom does a commissioner get a thank you. They can't win. It's a losing proposition. And they have pressure, extreme pressure from the public.

The same public that ridicules them will not come up and give them any solutions. They'll give the Commission the problems, the questions, but you can't look to them for answers to a problem. They'll create the problem, but they want no part in alleviating it. This the Commission has to do on its own.

MARCH: Let's get back to the job of city manager.

STACK: A professional city manager who I knew very well about six years ago summed it up in two paragraphs:

"A city manager must face many problems, many situations, and many individuals who make up the city. The range of problems presented to the commission and the city manager varies from the ridiculous to the sublime, from replacing a slate in a board

fence to construction of a large project, from the planting of a tree to the wholesale removal of dead trees.

"He has to be able to sort out the needs of the city from the desires of a few individuals. He must be able to say 'no' in a manner that leaves the person making the request thinking that he is either wrong, or that he will have the opportunity to present the problem again."

And this is it - the fact that he must be able to sort out the needs of a few individuals. You must always rule for the benefit of the majority. It may be as simple as chickens in a man's backyard. If his neighbors make a complaint, then he no longer has the right to have chickens in his backyard.

MARCH: In the last few years, some subjects of major interest to the citizens of Key West have come into being, such as the hippie situation, the ACLU, HUD (Housing and Development program), and the Navy pullout. Could we touch on these?

STACK: I don't really know what a hippie is. I think you mean the small segment of misguided youth that we have here.

MARCH: Never before have so many young people taken to the road with knapsacks on their backs. What's the general feeling about this influx into the city?

STACK: We probably only have an influx over a two or three month period. I think a lot of these people are coming down here just for curiosity. I don't think there's many staying because there's no place for them to stay. They'll come in for a day or two or three, but then they'll turn around and start trekking some place else.

MARCH: Suppose there were a place provided by the city that would operate as a communal headquarters for them?

STACK: Well, the theory of any government is that everyone should pay his own way. Now there is also the responsibility for fellow man to take care of fellow man and that's just a moral obligation, forget the laws and everything else. Let's face it, when you're 17 or 18 or 19, you don't have the knowledge or understanding of life that an older person has.

These people are in the position where they're going to be exposed to damaging effects; they're going to

stand there and stick their arm in the rotor of an airplane. You have to go and say, "Look, you're going to get hurt if you do this." They may get upset, they may think that they've got all the right in the world to stick their arm in the rotor, but that's our obligation, to prevent them from doing that.

If somebody's going to take heroin, we know that it's damaging. Does man have the moral right to damage himself? No. It's our responsibility to rehabilitate and help these people until they find direction. The problem comes in because we've got to enforce laws that affect everybody.

If suddenly fifty or sixty people - hippies or military - pitched a tent next to your house and had a constant party and weren't practicing hygiene, you would complain. And the law would look at this not only from the aspect of the complaint, but at what they are doing to themselves.

All of us - let's face it - can't just say, "Let's quit working and go live in a damn commune someplace."

It can't work. It's impossible. Like right now, I'd love to take off my coat and say, "I just want to take it easy the rest of my lifetime." But who's going to pay the way? My theory is that fifty percent of us work and support the fifty percent who don't.

MARCH: Tell me, before we get onto the ACLU directly, do you know that Bill Westray had been scheduled to speak before the Chamber of Commerce until its members found out that he planned to talk about the organization? They cancelled him and some members of the Chamber reportedly accused the ACLU of being a Communist organization. Have you heard any of this?

STACK: No.

MARCH: What's your feeling about the ACLU?

STACK: To tell you the truth, I don't know anything about the local chapter of the ACLU. I only know what I've read about it on a nationwide scale, and I don't believe everything I read, either. But I've not gotten involved locally. However, everybody is entitled to their viewpoint and to be heard, and every organization has the right to decide who they will hear.

MARCH: So, you're saying that it's right of the Chamber of Commerce to cancel.

continued on p. 14



WHAT YA GOT COOKIN' ?

Phoebe Coan

On the first day of spring I follow my nose down Petronia Street to sniff out some good soul food. Around Bop Brown's and Cecil's is Sam Wilson's place, Wilson's Barbecue. I stop in and meet Mr. Wilson who's been in business since '38 with the same secret barbecue sauce.

"If people ask me how I make my sauce, I say my wife makes it. If people ask her, she says I make it." So, no luck on a recipe there.

However, I decide to do some detective work since Billy Jones, sitting at the counter there treats me to a plate of medium hot ribs. Tasting my way through, I start out with a fork and end up with my fingers...delicious! And I tell them. No wonder the sauce has survived 35 years.

I detect some vinegar, hot peppers, lemon, perhaps—but then, I'm at a loss. To heck with the recipe I decide, the food is good and the people are good people.

We have a meeting of souls, without it having been said; for we find we are comfortable talking to each other. People come and go for take-out orders. Sam taking a stir at the big pot from time to time, me licking my fingers, Billy laughing and smiling a lot of knows in his eyes.

When I ask about "soul food", I find it is up to me to know and I try. Soul food is love food, I know now.

Mrs. Wilson actually runs the Barbecue spot that stays open for the late crowd from 6 til 2, and it's a lively area. "Some nights you have company, other nights you don't."

Wilson is custodian at Fla. Keys Jr. College and just fills in at the barbecue.

"A lot of people, white and colored like our food. We sell all we cook up."

A SEA OF QUESTIONS

Stan Becker

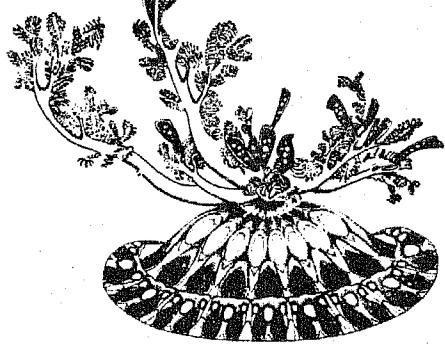
What are the jellyfish that look like "pulsating pancakes," and that lie on the bottom in shallow water? How can they live as crowded as they do?

—DeeDee Quigley

These animals are scyphomedusae (sky' fo meh doo' see) or true jellyfish called *Cassiopea frondosa* (Cass' ee o' pee' a fron doe' sa). Although *Cassiopea* has no popular name in English, Spanish-speaking people have named it "La Roseta."

Cassiopea normally lies on its back in still, shallow water, creating a bit of a current for itself by contracting the margin of its "bell" or disc in the typical regular pulsations associated with jellyfish swimming behavior.

The dense mass, facing upward from the bell, often described as resembling the tops of broccoli, is composed of hundreds to thousands of little "mouths" divided and fused along root-like branches. The darker, leaf-like appendages sticking up—



and for practical purposes, may be thought of as a carpet of grass or algae which makes such a high population density more understandable. *Cassiopea* normally serves as host to a very dense population of single-celled photosynthetic plants called dinoflagellates. During the

solars hill get a box of ribs from Miami for \$4.00 and sell a barbecue sandwich for 10¢. However, summing up his years in the cookin' business, Mr. Wilson said that dealing with the public could be difficult. "Some say, not enough...Others, too much!"

"It's a test and you shouldn't go to work unless you feel good. If you go anyway, you don't feel anybody and end up looking foolish yourself."

He says people eat too fast also and many of them miss tasting that way. "Also, lots of the meat is frozen so much it loses its taste, and people don't taste the difference nowadays."

As for the Wilson's they get tired of their own food pretty much but when they cook at home: "If anyone cooks at home, it be me and she be waiting..." We all laugh. He prefers fresh fish, lamb and beef.

Mr. Wilson brushes on some more sauce for a take out and I can feel it...the soul food, like the soul music I feel welcome here. I hate saying goodbye for we have enjoyed



Mr. Wilson's barbecue does taste good. It picks you up mighty fast and really does its thing.

"The Chinaman was really the first one to cook soul food for the public, using and reusing the same meat." Mr. Wilson, however, was the first to start a barbecue in Key West. In the beginning one could

each other's company and the soul food turned out to be very good head food which leaves me with more than a food recipe. I conjure a recipe for life and savor the good, friendly taste gratefully and with added hope for my fellow man.

At parting, "Write what you want," he says, "I trust you."

ward from among the "mouths" are reproductive organs.

These jellyfish can and do live under conditions so crowded that they form continuous carpet over the bottom. This habit is made possible by the amazing fact that these animals function more like plants,

daylight hours these highly efficient unicellular algae produce substantial volumes of oxygen and carbohydrates, both of which contribute to the support of the host jellyfish. This makes it possible for *Cassiopea* to live in groups whose numbers by far exceed the capacity of the surrounding environment to support them.

What is the fish commonly sold for bait under the name of "Shivers?"

—Peter Whelan

There are four species involved, all of which are small herrings. They are the Scaled Sardine, *Harengula pensacolae*; the False Pilchard, *H. clupeola*; the Red-ear Sardine, *H. humeralis*; and the Thread Herring, *Opiosthonema oglinum*. These fishes are also referred to in commerce as Pilchards or Pilchers.

What local plants are "Fish-Poison trees?"

—Bill Russell

The most common fish-poison tree of the Florida Keys is the Jamaica Dogwood *Piscidia communis*. The Carib Indians made extensive use of the young branches and leaves and the bark of roots, crushed and placed in confined bodies of water of fairly limited volume such as tide-pools and small ponds.

The Key West Anole

Peter Whelan

PART II

The Anole identification problem comes in distinguishing the Key West Anole (*Anolis sagrei steinegeri*) from two other Anole subspecies, the Cuban Brown Anole (*Anolis sagrei sagrei*) and the Bahamian Brown Anole (*Anolis sagrei ordinatus*). Both have been established in Florida for perhaps more than 100 years and both resemble the Key West Anole. But they are stockier, darker, with clearer longitudinal striping, and have more prominent tail crests.

The male Cuban Brown Anole also has an orange-red throat fan, but sometimes it is reddish brown, and sometimes yellow-edged. With male Bahamian Brown Anoles, the throat fan has more grey in the orange and its white edge is spotted with dark pigment. Unfortunately, two authorities, Roger B. Conant and Archie Carr, differ on Cuban-Bahamian throat fan features. In neither subspecies do females have the Key West yellow stripe with brown half-circle motif.

The Cuban Brown Anole flourishes along parts of the Florida west coast, from St. Petersburg Beach north through Reddington, Bellair, Clearwater, and Tampa, but does not range more than 10 miles inland. It is also reported in the Miami area. The more prominently crested Bahamian Brown Anole has been "introduced" at Lake Worth, Florida, and Miami. Both may occur in Key West. Florida Keys biologist editor Stan Becker reports an unidentified species of brown Anole on Big Pine Key.

Other non-domestic anoles known to exist in Florida include the Brickell Hammock Anole, Bahamian Crested Lizard, Bahamian Bark Anole, Green Bark Anole, and the Cuban Knight Anole (*Anolis equestris equestris*). The last is a giant, oddly large-headed, peacock anole that reaches a length of 15 inches. It thrives on mice and birds. An anonymous lizard fancier is said to have introduced them at several localities in Dade County, Florida, where they are now reported to be common.

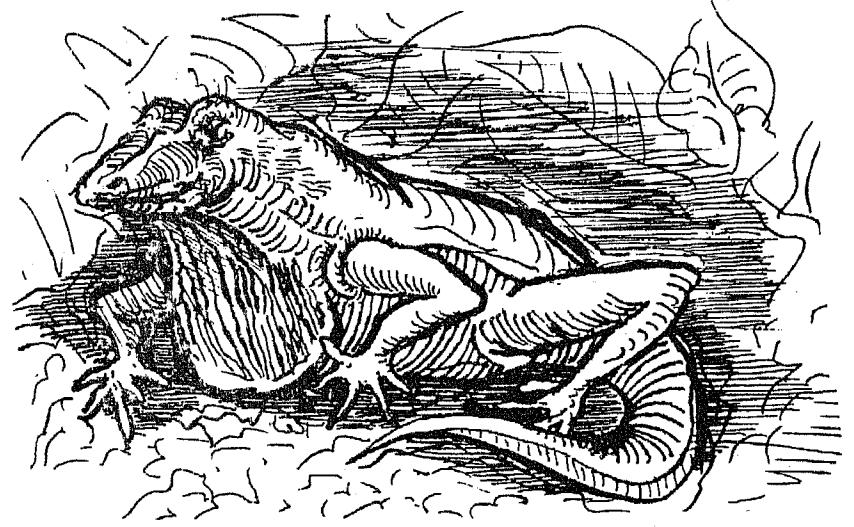
The Key West Anole is also a close relative of the lizard most abused by man—the famous Green Anole or American "Chameleon" (*Anolis carolinensis*)—but not close enough to mate and produce offspring. The inability to mate makes them different species.

The Key West Anole is stockier than the Chameleon, faster, has a shorter head, rounder tail, and it hops as it runs. Unlike the Chameleon, it never turns green. It stays a patterned brown.

The Chameleon ranges through the Atlantic states from North Carolina south to Cuba. The

Key West Anole occurs only on Key West and a few nearby islands.

Quick color transformations from livid green to khaki to chocolate brown make the Green Anole a 59-cent favorite at Woolworth's. Here, each year, thousands are sold, and after a few months, thousands die in the Auschwitz's of Ridgewood, New Jersey, Upper Darby, Pa., and Stamford, Conn. However, the Chameleon may not be near extinction. There are probably some years left. It is still the most populous lizard in the Southeast.



The Chameleon may also be the most populous lizard in large cities of the Northeast. But when December comes, the few anoles in cities like New York that are going to make it through the winter are at the zoo (Bronx or Staten Island).

Few anoles can take more than a month or two of captivity anyway. Temperature and humidity conditions never seem to be quite right for eating and surviving. Somehow, the anole becomes a prisoner in solitary confinement who rejects food. Somehow, the cage becomes his execution chamber. After several weeks a pile of uneaten black flies accumulates at the bottom of the cage and, together with the metal parts, smell faintly of acid.

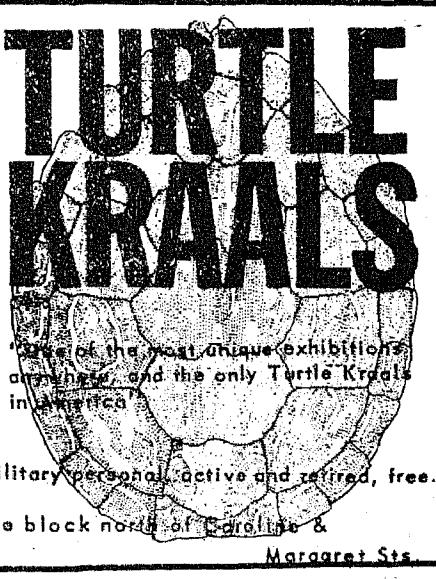
Other contributors to the extinguishment of Anoles were circuses and carnivals. Chameleons were somehow part of the exhibit of fat ladies, sword swallowers, and performing lions, and they were offered for sale in individual white boxes with celophane windows. Few saw their way through a Northern winter.

By the late 1940's the Johnson, Smith Company was advertising whoopee cushions, joy buzzers, a throw-your-voice device, and "a Chameleon leash for the ladies." One end of the chain clasped around the lizard's neck like a metal collar. The other end attached to a buttonhole. It gave the Chameleon a traveling radius of about six inches. This Company fantasy never really caught on (like the Statue of Liberty painted on the back of baby Slider Terapins at Woolworth's).

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The Green Anole's day of extinction may arrive sooner than expected; it may even arrive sooner than that of the brown Key West Anole. The ability to change color has become a curse. The ability to turn intermediate shades of green, yellow and brown has made the Chameleon popular and vulnerable to its worst enemy, man.

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FROM OUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Carol Burton

I recently talked with Dr. John S. Smith, President of Florida Keys Community College, about some of the projects currently taking place at the College. Here is a summary of our conversation:

As a community service, the college houses a Peace Officers' Institute which gives any interested law enforcement officer clock hours of in-service training either teaching or attending classes which are held at the college. These classes vary from auto wrecks to crime detection and are held periodically during the year. In addition, the college has its own regular academic courses in law enforcement areas which can be taken towards earning a degree in that field.

There is a new program in the works which is being sponsored by a Federal grant of \$115,000 a year for three years for culturally and financially disadvantaged people in the area. Another large sum is also coming from the Office of Educational Opportunities for students from homes with limited incomes to be used for food, clothing, and etc., so these people can afford to attend school.

The new college catalog will contain Spanish sub-titles, and a condensed version completely in Spanish will be made of the Vocational/Technical section of the catalog. To help promote this program, Dr. Decker has visited many of the local restaurants with his tape recorder, trying to engage in conver-

sations with many of the Spanish speaking residents of Key West. When talking with them, he also played his tape which is a message about this program, spoken in Spanish.

There will be ten new teachers for one hundred pupils, and almost individual teaching will be avail-



Dr. John S. Smith

able. Lessons will be programmed on a remedial level and graded accordingly until the level of work reaches college level, when these students will be ready to carry a regular college load of work. "School," says Dr. Smith, "is the training arm of culture." First we must help new citizens to assimilate our culture and aspire towards

solares hill

the same goals we hope to attain. Only then will they cease being second class citizens.

When the college was first founded, it didn't work as closely with the community as it does today. This is only natural, and it's nice to know just what sort of changes have taken place over the years. For one thing, just recently the VFW 3911 and Aux. placed an American flag in each classroom at the college. Also, many organizations now give scholarships to the college as a way of showing their approval of college programs and policies. I may be way out of line in saying so, but I think it's just grand to have the flag back in the classroom! It helps me remember what country I'm living in, at the moment anyhow...

Cooperation with Key West High School has also grown by leaps and bounds. It seems like any facility on their campus is available to the college at any time. Also, students from Key West High are welcome to use the college library at any time, as well as any person having a card issued by the Monroe County Public library.

I asked Dr. Smith if he sees Key West as a big college town in the future, and he told me that there are no end to the possibilities if we can only manage to get our own dorms. For a brief minute, I had a glimpse of Key West with Old Mallory Square completely renovated, a walking mall on Duval Street, all the old store fronts back up, and finally, at the far end of the island, a big four year college, still growing and still serving; the way things should be, one day in the future.

He selects the minnow he wants, and then chases it until he gets it.

This involves such a frenzy of running, flapping, lurching, and stumbling, splashing, zig-zagging, and general hoo-ha that when the fish finally succumbs the water in the entire area is a froth of foam and stirred mud.

When the chase begins, the bird's long neck shoots up and out (45 degrees or so) and his head turns so that one eye points down. Then he accelerates to high speed, eyeing the minnow, and like a running corkscrew follows every twist of the fish. It's so entertaining that bird-watchers, in telling each other of their latest Reddish Egret, sometimes dislocate their necks or run into the wall.

As the chase warms up, the Egret unfurls and flaps his wings, gaining yet more speed and maneuverability (irrevocably demoralizing the horrified fish), and after perhaps ten yards of hot pursuit the doomed fish disappears in a blur of spray and clacking bill.

The pond then returns to normal for a few moments as the water clears, until the next incautious minnow, attracted by the commotion, commits an error of judgement.

To get in on this show, take your binoculars and proceed to the old salt ponds which are on both sides of the Key West Towers. Bring along a stool or chair, because you will want to stay a while.

Most of the wading birds either stand still and nail fish as they cruise past, or stride about in slow dignity with their spring-loaded necks at the ready. Not so the D.R.

Be advised, however, that applause at the end of the act tends to spook the Egrets.

The Reddish Egret

Thurlow Weed

Dichromanaassa rufescens (which translates out to something like "reddish two-toned duck"), like the Cattle Egret and the Inca Dove, is toberissimo. And for much the same reason.

At the turn of the century, women in the large cities were the ultimate cause of the death of hundreds of thousands of Florida's most beauti-wading birds, which were shot to harvest their plumes for the head-dresses of society ladies.

One of the species most highly prized for this particular sin was the Reddish Egret. When, after years of outrage and outcry and a murder (in the Everglades of Guy Bradley, a young lover of nature appointed by the Audubon Society as bird-guard; he left a wife and two small children), the plume trade was outlawed and the birds protected, most of the species recovered in numbers, though never to the pre-persecution levels.

The Reddish Egret did not. In 1955 it was estimated that a mere 200 birds were left (it is the same story with the Roseate Spoonbill). But today there seems to be a considerable come-back. Last week near the airport there were four of these Egrets feeding in one of the abandoned salt ponds.

The bird, despite the tentative translation of its scientific name above, is not a duck. It is a heron, a large (say a bit over two feet tall) wading bird with a long, thin bill.

Long legs too, and a long and exceedingly flexible neck. It has a four-foot wingspan.

There are two color phases, both of which can be seen locally. The most common phase (reflected in the scientific name) is two-toned: the body a slate-grey and the neck and head reddish brown. If the bird decides to ruffle up, its head and neck become quite shaggy, but most often it takes a careful eye to know it as a long-hair.

The other color phase, oddly, is pure white. In this stage it is easily confounded with the Great White Heron, the Cattle Egret, the Snowy Egret, the Common Egret, or the immature Little Blue Heron, depending on how familiar you are with these similar brethren. You can distinguish the Reddish Egret by subtle differences in bill color, or general size, or by foot color. But the feet of all these birds, except the Cattle Egret, are generally under water and therefore invisible.

As the chase warms up, the Egret unfurls and flaps his wings, gaining yet more speed and maneuverability (irrevocably demoralizing the horrified fish), and after perhaps ten yards of hot pursuit the doomed fish disappears in a blur of spray and clacking bill.

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april 12 - april 26

MOCK TURTLE SOUP

Lyle Johnstor

Once again, and for the second week in a row, we at Mock Turtle Soup have been persuaded to postpone our predictive article concerning the New Hampshire Presidential Primaries.

The occasion for this particular change is, quite naturally, unique and exciting. During the toilsome days of the past week we successfully arranged a sort of symposium - a dialogue involving some of the most ardent advocates, proponents, critics and generally outspoken persons who unselfishly chip in for the good of the Key West community.

It is quite nearly unbelievable that, amidst their tireless days and unbending schedules the following individuals could join us for an "on the record" discussion of Key West's most demanding problems.

Those present for the talk were, in alphabetical order: "A Loyal Citizen," "Another one of the Establishment," "Disgusted," "Just Wondering," and the everpresent "One of the Establishment." We opened the discussion with a short but quick analysis of the recent water shortage in Key West. "Just Wondering," in her usual whiskey baritone, spoke first.

ANOTHER ONE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT - Well, I'm pretty open-minded about this long hair bus-

iness - heck, a fad is a fad - but I sure would be interested to know what this Bill Huckle guy has to do with the city's financial troubles. It's for darn sure he isn't helping matters with all his preaching about ecology. All we need are more ways to spend money ... a great position for a city with no income.

DISGUSTED - Well just the thought of Huckle dominating a civic discussion makes me feel disgusted.

MOCK TURTLE SOUP - What do you folks think about all the confusion surrounding the city's franchise systems, what with a competing conch train and no competition in television cables and charterboat fishing?

A LOYAL CITIZEN - Why don't you ask Mister Bill Huckle about that? He seems to have all the answers,

ANOTHER ONE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT - I wouldn't think Huckle'd have time to think of answers. He spends all his time defending dope fiends.

DISGUSTED - This whole talk does nothing but disgust me.

On that note we finally adjourned the symposium with a "thank you" for all those present.

ACE & ED.

From: "Ace" Pickapart
To: Mr. S. Hill
Dear Solly,

I am so sorry to have caused you any problems and hope that my calling Mrs. Hill got you out of trouble. After explaining to your wife how many people would like to read my news and how much money the new readers would bring you as well as her being able to have a new fur coat and all. She was very nice and said she would be glad to have me as a reporter and subscription salesman, but the hiring was up to you.

Since I've fixed everything up, how about sending me a press card so I can go to work immediately.

Always yours,
"Ace"

P.S. I'll need some credit at Swift's Camera Store so I can take pictures.

From: Editor, Solares Hill
To: Mr. Arnold A. Pickapart
Mr. Pickapart,

I was informed by my wife that you thought her color went well with the mink coat she just bought, which I'm returning immediately. Please mind your own business.

Editor, Solares Hill

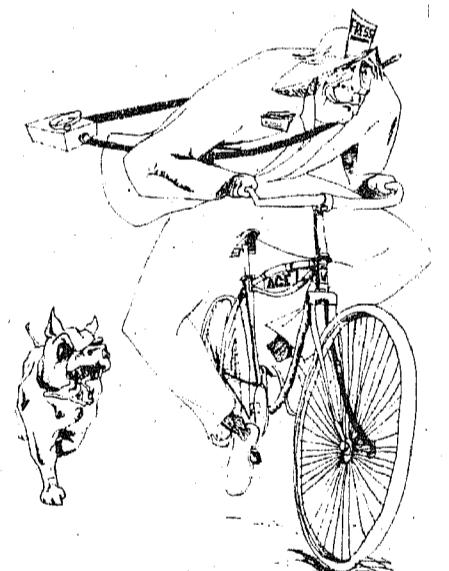
From: "Ace" Pickapart
To: Mr. Hill

Mr. Hill, I'm sure you'll get over being angry with me, just as soon as you see these 200 subscriptions, cash in advance - better cash that

last check I gave you #13 today -- as it seemed to stretch a little. Please don't thank me; just send check or cash to cover my salary.

Yours always,
"Ace"

P.S. The camera store is waiting



for your check for the camera; I think \$300 is a great buy and he says I can get a free roll of film each time I get the film developed, so I took color negatives. I'm always thinking of your interests. But please send him a check as he's been calling twice a day. Where's my Press Card!

From: Editor Solares Hill
To: "Ace" Pickapart

ACE, I know 200 subscriptions in two weeks is very good, but \$300 for a camera and color film? We only print in black and white and couldn't you use an Instamatic like my daughter got for her birthday?

I'm advising Swift's Camera Shop that you've had a nervous breakdown and can't be responsible for what you say or do. So return the camera or write a nice letter on the view from the jail.

Editor, Solares Hill

P.S. The marking pen ran out of ink, so you'll have to wait on your press card.

From: "Ace" Pickapart
To: Editor, Solares Hill
Look Sol,

I don't ask you to write every issue of the paper by hand with a crayon, just because it's cheaper, right? I mean, you could scribble with a giant size box (144 different) until you create all the issues for a month.

Sol, I need a good camera, not a crayon; I mean instamatic or box camera, after all, think of the shots of your family I could do, and we could write it off as a tax loss, too. So please, Sol, pay for the camera and come bail me out of jail as it is all a mistake.

Pleadingly,
"Ace"

continued from p. 9

STACK: Yes. Just like me. If the Chamber asked me to speak and I chose a subject that they found offensive, they would have the right to say that they didn't want me to speak on that subject. But yet, in a public forum you can get up and speak out on any topic you wish.

MARCH: Do you think it might be beneficial for you to attend a meeting of the ACLU?

STACK: It never entered my mind. I've had no invitation and I'm not even sure what the function of the Civil Liberties Union would be.

MARCH: The Union is supposed to provide representation for people who cannot afford to be adequately . . .

STACK: Right. To protect civil liberties and so on. But I'm sure there must be a lot more to it than that...

MARCH: Perhaps they'll invite you to attend a meeting. It just might be of interest to you as the city manager.

STACK: Well, I don't think I even know a member of the organization.

MARCH: Sure you do. You know Mike Prewitt.

STACK: I've met Mike, but I was talking about somebody that I really know, a friend or a business acquaintance. I don't think that anybody I really know is a member. I have no idea what makes it tick.

MARCH: OK. Let's talk about what's made the Housing and Development program so controversial.

STACK: Very seldom does Uncle Sam come along and give you a Federal program that doesn't wind up costing you. We're on a Federal program now that has cost the city of Key West very dearly, and it's one of the controversial aspects of the HUD program.

About three years ago the city entered a contract with the Federal government to take a section of town called the Facelift Section and rehabilitate it, bringing the houses up to standard, getting them rewired.

MARCH: Was this a poor section of town?

STACK: No, I have no idea how it was chosen but they decided on fixing up this particular area.

MARCH: They? Who's they?

STACK: The City Commission and the Federal Government. Here's a section that's approximately one-eighth the size of Key West that will get new sewer lines, new streets, new sidewalks and more than that, each household conforms to a certain building standard. Like if you have so many people in your house, you put in another bathroom; you rewire your house if the building is ten or fifteen years old; if the porch is sagging, fix the porch - just what the program's name says: Operation Facelift.

The Federal Government said they would give us \$1,600,000. Our share was one-fourth of that. We had to come up with one-fourth or about \$400,000.

MARCH: So you're actually only getting \$1,200,000 from the Government.

STACK: Yes. We can do it in one of two ways. We can do it by paying actual cash to a contractor, who would then take over the job; or we can do it by contributing men and equipment

on time. We put a time keeper on it so that we could come up with the equivalent of \$400,000 in men and materials. A city this size doesn't have an excess of men and material so we put on our regular crews.

What the government didn't tell us was that any work below the street profile did not contribute to our portion of the load. Any digging - anything done below the line - was not counted. We found out that we couldn't lay proper road beds until the streets were dredged up and filled up with marl.

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When November comes, I'm asking for a two year extension, so that we can get out of this thing, get a breather and have a chance to get some money.

MARCH: Here, we don't want to get into a whole long debate on the worth of this Operation Facelift, even though I think there's a real need to question its ultimate value, because we have some other very important bases to touch. What about the anticipated Navy pullout?

STACK: To the best of my knowledge, I think that the Navy is here to stay for a long time. They may not always be here in the strength we have known in the past; but I think that you will always see the Navy represented in Key West.

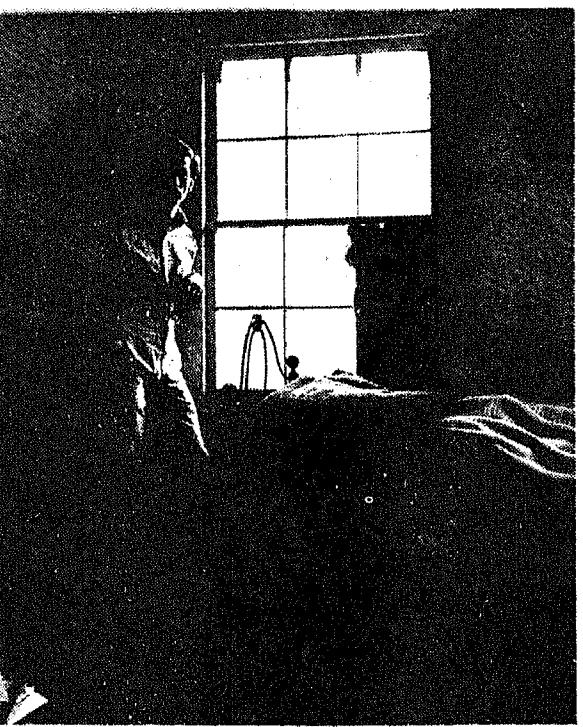
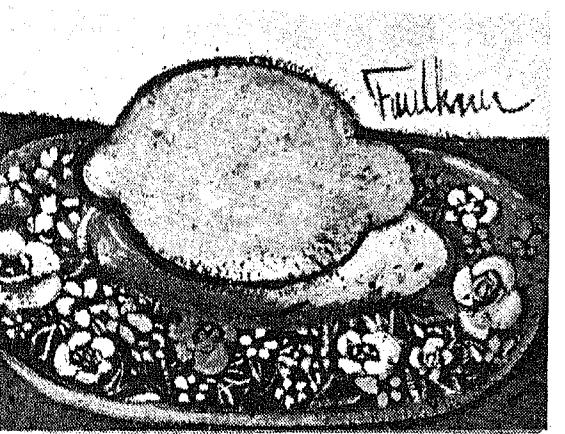
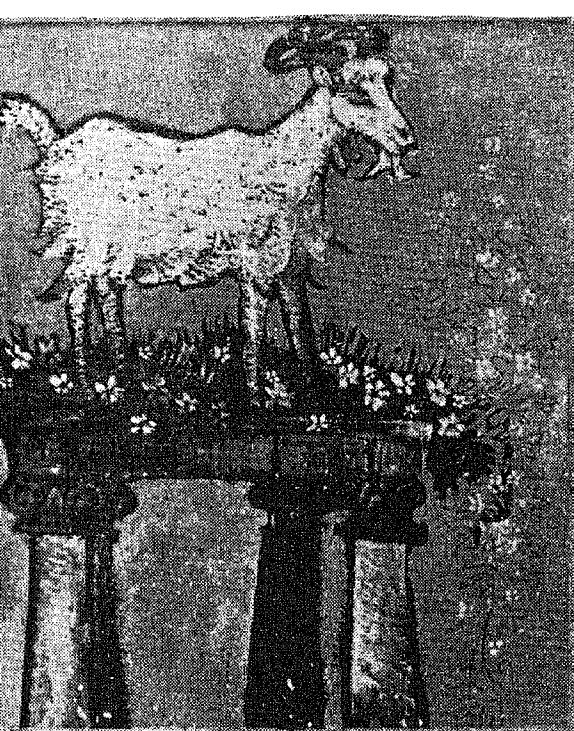
MARCH: But with so many of the Navy leaving - at least this is my understanding - won't a lot of the town suffer financially?

STACK: No. We've had a layoff in the Navy Yard. But Key West has been associated with the Navy for thirty years. I personally do not see any great measure of economic problems. I think you'll probably see the Navy hiring more in a year or two. The Navy won't pull out; Key West is too valuable a training section.

MARCH: That's good to know. Ron, what do you feel are your accomplishments as city manager? Which areas are you proudest of in your fourteen months in office?

STACK: Any accomplishments I have made have been with the cooperation of the Commission, because I can't

Henry Faulkner
PAINTER



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continued from p. 14

has enough money saved up to feed himself he's not violating the law. He can use our streets, our parks, anything he wants to use as long as he respects them.

Now if it gets to the point where he's out there stealing to support himself, that's different. If there's illicit trade of drugs to support himself, that's different. But it's a very small minority of people involved in this. Most of them are not out to cause any trouble; they're not looking for trouble; they don't want trouble. And there's nothing wrong with having people like that in the community. Nothing whatsoever.

MARCH: *What would you say would be - not your failures - but your goals? What are you still striving towards?*

STACK: To raise enough money to do the kind of job we'd like to do for the city.

MARCH: *Where is your money coming from now?*

STACK: First of all, we get a certain millage allowance from real estate taxes paid on our property; we get cigarette taxes; license fees

MARCH: *How much do you get for occupational licenses?*

STACK: I would say that we probably get \$30,000. The licenses are renewable every year.

MARCH: *What's the total budget that Key West has to work with?*

STACK: Total budget's \$1,700,000. The majority of the income we get is from five or six categories: city taxes including real estate taxes; occupational licenses; building permits; fines and forfeitures.

MARCH: *How much do fines and forfeitures bring in?*

STACK: About \$131,000. Then there's cigarette tax, gasoline tax; the rest is in small items.

MARCH: *Why is it that Key West doesn't get utility taxes? Especially since your fiscal budget is one-fourth the size of other cities the same size?*

STACK: Most cities own the utilities like lights and water. We don't.

MARCH: *Who owns the light system?*

STACK: Our utility system is a public system, but it's a creature of the state legislature's utility commission. In theory, the city of Key West owns the system, but in theory only.

MARCH: *Because the money doesn't come into Key West?*

STACK: Because the money doesn't come into Key West. It goes back into the system. And the first thing that the City Electric System does is pay its bondholders.

They also have a very large overhead to take care of, so consequently we realize only eighty or ninety thousand dollars a year from our system; whereas most cities would realize three or four hundred thousand.

MARCH: *Couldn't the City Commission effect a change so that Key West could own its own light system?*

STACK: It's impossible, because our system is created by the State Legislature.

MARCH: *Couldn't you go to the State Legislature and change the status quo?*

STACK: Not now, because we couldn't afford the net responsibilities the system has.

MARCH: *Because you don't have enough money?*

STACK: That, too, but we would need approval of all of the ten thousand bond holders of the City Electric System throughout America.

MARCH: *And they don't want to part with that monthly check.*

STACK: You'd have to go to each bond holder individually, and you know the little old lady from Des Moines with one share of stock would say no.

MARCH: *How did Key West let this happen? Why don't you directly own the electric system?*

STACK: Right after the Depression, Key West was operating on its credit and the City Electric System was going into bankruptcy. So the State Legislature and the County Commission went ahead and created a board to govern the City Electric System and raise money to operate it by selling stocks in the System.

At the time this seemed to be the most feasible way for the City Electric System to get back on its feet. It's become a big business since then.

MARCH: *It sounds as if everybody's making money but Key West.*

STACK: Well, Key West isn't supposed to make money out of utilities. What we're supposed to do is make enough money to give the services that are needed.

MARCH: *But you should also be able to make enough money; let's say, to improve the city. I'm talking about making money.*

STACK: It's services I'm talking about. In other words, we don't have enough income, but we're not supposed to make money. We have no profit-making.

MARCH: *When I say making money, what I mean is realizing enough money so that after taking care of essentials you would still have leftover funds to make improvements.*

STACK: *But let's get back to the utilities. What about the city water system? Do we make any money on it at all?*

STACK: No, we have no income from that source at all. There's a state-appointed aqueduct commission who buys the water from the Navy and distributes it to us, charging a certain amount so that they can break even on the transaction.

MARCH: *Suppose the people were to have the state legislature pass a special act directly taxing the City Electric System and the Aqueduct Commission?*

STACK: You couldn't do that. All you can do legally is tax the users and that's why we're coming up with the utility tax. You cannot tax the corporation itself because it's a public utility.

MARCH: *Now, if we were to tax the users, would the money go directly to the city or would it have to first pass through the City Electric System and the Florida Aqueduct Commission?*

STACK: What happens is that they'll be directly responsible for collecting it and dispersing it to us. Suppose it comes out to be a ten percent tax, a bill of \$9.52 would show a .95 Utility Tax. Each month their comptroller would have the responsibility of total-

ing up what they had collected and sending us a check for that amount.

MARCH: *What you could do is tax the people directly on the amount of utility that they use so that*

STACK: That's exactly what's going to come. This is the only way to do it. Unfortunately, we're hitting the same people who are already paying our taxes now. I'd like to go into a resort tax.

I'm not saying that we should rob the tourists, but we should get some help from them. They demand our services; they use our streets, our sewers; they litter our town. They contribute to the mess just as much as the residents do.

All this filth and garbage that the people complain about isn't made by the city. We don't manufacture this garbage which litters the streets, the people put it there. And they're the ones who complain about it. We have to go out and pick it up. God knows, you see for yourself; we go through this town with a fine tooth comb and clean it up, and in a month it's right back where it was.

MARCH: *What about that tourist tax? Will it come into effect?*

STACK: It's just in the formative stage. Because, as everything else, you always have opposition.

MARCH: *Who's opposing it?*

STACK: Mostly those people who cater to the tourist. Restaurant and motel owners figure that if you start imposing a tax on the tourist, he won't come here. There's always opposition. You never can have clear sailing on anything you do. A decision will be made on the utility tax in the next thirty to sixty days.

MARCH: *Does that look favorable?*

STACK: I hope it goes through. It's going to be entirely up to the City Commission to make that decision. They're the law making body of the city.

MARCH: *You act as a sort of arbiter between the City Commission and the public?*

STACK: I'm the administrator. The laws are created and made by the Commission, and I enforce them. I'm more or less the general of the army who carries out the orders of the joint chiefs of staff.

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