

The People's Forum

# The Regulation of Signs

## Wants Flashier Signs

Here we go again regarding "The Great Sign Issue." It seems to depend mostly on personalities — those for bigger and better signs and those who would want unrealistic sign size limitations in commercially-zoned areas.

I fully agree with Councilman Myers, along with many, many, many others, for bigger, larger and flashier signs.

The picture shows (Main Street, Winooski) what a dreary looking business district looks like.

The same goes for Williston Road. The picture shows another dreary entrance area to nothing, going nowhere, instead of a lively business area. "Hurrah and burrah" for New Jersey.

Every now and then the bright thought is brought up that somebody or other does not want these areas to look like Vegas.

As one who has visited Vegas and many, many, other well-signlighted areas, I would again salute Vegas for the world's most largest and beautiful signs, made by master craftsmen.

What is needed in Winooski, South Burlington, Church Street and other business streets in Burlington are bigger, better and flashier signs, made by master craftsmen with years of talent.

S. A. BLOOM

Winooski, Vt.

## City Hall Park Suggestions

I spoke to the Park Superintendent two years ago to have him replace the drinking fountain and he said he would look into it. Also two weeks ago to have him replace the movable benches so people can sit in the shade of the trees and he said he would but they are not there yet.

I think if the city can spend fourteen to sixteen thousand dollars in the South End Park on lights, picnic tables and cooking stoves, they can spend a few hundred dollars on a drinking fountain and benches for the City Hall Park.

I think the benches should be in the park by Musical Festival Time.

EDWARD F. TOWNE

Burlington, Vt.

## Windsor Prison Conditions

On page 5 of the June 19 issue of the Free Press you carry a bored story on Professor Mark C. Kennedy's comments on Mrs. Mavis Doyle's series of articles on the state prison in Windsor and the regional rehabilitation centers.

Without going into the merits of Mavis' articles, except to say that they are, perhaps, a little too synopated and sophisticated for the serious topic they deal with, though very good as light reading, I was more interested in what she had to say about conditions in the prison at Windsor.

As "home" to just over 200 male prisoners, the building, from what I have seen, is too old. One entire block of cells, totalling more than 100

units, is both unfit and unsafe for occupancy and has been closed off by the Warden. They are not used at all. Judging by your story, Professor Kennedy's position on the question of a new state prison, which I feel the state needs badly, is on the basis of fact, hardly valid. The prime importance of a new building stems from the fact that people do live in it. The state is obligated by law to keep prisoners in a safe and non-hazardous place, irrespective of sociological theory and professional sociological claims about post-confinement rehabilitation. It cannot be too long before the Windsor prison will, as a whole, be uninhabitable. The present building, even those parts that were built in the 1920's, is practically a slum.

After reading your story, and without going into its precise accuracy, I conclude that Prof. Kennedy's views are overprofessionalized and, therefore, lacking in the value they might otherwise have. They are in some ways reminiscent of socialist sociology of the turn of the century, which held that drinking — and prostitution (August Bebel in "Woman and Socialism") — was caused by the social condition of poverty, and nothing else.

Going back to Mavis' articles, especially the first one, I do notice that in one instance she overstates the case for the rehabilitation programs at Windsor when she says in almost so many words that the prisoners, to use a wartime army phrase, "never had it so good." This led me to remark, in a letter I had the occasion to write to Warden Robert G. Smith the other day, that it reminded me of an old English saying which goes like this: "There's a difference between scratching yourself and tearing your skin off."

ALBERT NORMAN

Northfield, Vt.

## Repeal of Sales Tax

It is my candid opinion that Nette Ayers missed the "punch line" in the June 11 issue of the Free Press relative to the sales tax (sales and use tax) in Vermont. It behooves me therefore to set the record straight for the many people who may have read the lady's letter in The People's Forum.

When Senator Bove requested that a special session be called by the governor in an endeavor to repeal the sales and use tax, he very emphatically stated, and unequivocally so, that should his request be granted, any and all legislators attending the session were to be asked to serve with no remuneration for that special session.

FRANK J. BOVE

Essex Junction, Vt.

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