D-2-THE PRESS Wednesday, October 30, 1963



Dear Editor:

"Isn't it breaking the law to drive when you're 'fuddled'?"

This is a pretty good question, although not one that I as a move or less sophisticated adult would ask.

The question was put to me by my ten-year-old. She was appalled that a newspaper would print such "lies" about so important a public official as the Mayor of our city.

What can one tell a child who is just old enough to read the newspapers? "NO, DEAR. THE MAYOR JUST WASN'T BEING A GOOD HELPER?"

It was my dismal duty to explain to her that, unfortunately, it was probably true, for a responsible newspaper has to print the facts.

It is not only the newspapers, Mr. Mayor, that have a responsibility. You, as an elected official, as a leader in a very high place, YOU have a responsibility: That of setting an example to the rest of us.

We are aware that there are great pressures in high position. Thoreau reminds us that "the mass of men live lives of quiet desperation." NOISY DESPERATION is another matter, and is unacceptable in a public official.

There is no greater honor available for a man than this: That he be chosen by his fellows to lead and govern them. Synicism has no place in a good and true leader.

Do not underestimate people. In the end they can accurately evaluate a man and, as Machiavélli has stated (and correctly!) "... men ... will revenge themselves for small injuries."

A private person has the option of behaving howsoever he sees fit, for when he breaks the law, or injures another, he alone must answer for his disorder. It is the public official who must guard his every action, and in the end behave rather too well, if this were possible, than totake the chance of appearing to behave badly. Sincerely.

Hannah Sampson

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