

# Editorials About Mayor Full of Insulting Innuendos

In your recent editorials opposing Mayor Bernard Sanders' administrative initiatives, there seems to be an increasing occurrence of innuendos directed at the mayor.

For example, in one editorial you refer to his appointees as his "hand picked lieutenants," while in another you describe his ideas about trying to use the airport as a revenue source as an effort to add to the mayor's "growing fiefdom." In a third editorial, in which you condemn Peter Welch for endorsing these airport revenue ideas, you refer to Sanders as the "socialist mayor" and leave it to the reader to discern what possible relevance or meaning the use of the term socialist has to your argument against these ideas.

In a less recent editorial you expressed concern about the Queen City Special (the newspaper sponsored by the Mayor's Youth Office) being used to promote Sanders administration "propaganda."

I suggest that if you are really concerned about propaganda you take a more critical look at your own editorials in which you attack the mayor.

I find the type of journalism I've cited here insulting, not only to



Forum

the mayor but personally as well as I have to sift through your editorials and separate those statements which seem to reflect only your strong personal dislike for Sanders from those that offer legitimate alternative viewpoints.

Although I don't believe there is any such thing as total objectivity, I do believe you have a journalistic responsibility to the mayor, the people who elected him, and the people who read your newspaper to present your views in an intelligent and respectful manner.

BRENT SCLAFANI

Colchester

## Contrary Evidence

Last Sunday (June 17) I heard Mayor Sanders speak at a com-

mencement. With some passion he declared that concentration of wealth was not a good thing. This seems to fly in the face of observable evidence.

For example, Switzerland has great concentrations of wealth. It also has negative unemployment, negligible social problems (e.g. crime, drugs, pollution) and, except for a few oil-rich Arab states, the highest per capita income and savings in the world. In addition it is, because of extensive use of the referendum, an exemplar of participatory democracy. It should also be noted that the liberality of the Swiss have made their land a sanctuary for a wide range of exiles from Voltaire to Lenin.

By contrast, consider Poland. Here is a nation without any concentrations of wealth. In fact it has a pervasive, totally shared poverty. There is a shortage of everything, including food.

Even if I were to compare a poorer nation, such as Greece which has concentrations of wealth, with neighboring Bulgaria or Romania which do not have concentrations of wealth, the story would be the same. A quick example: greater Athens has 2.5 million in-

habitants who own 700,000 automobiles while greater Bucharest with 1.5 million has less than 20,000 cars.

I suppose the real question is: Can any industrial nation (communist or otherwise) be successful in the capital intensive enterprises of today without having concentrations of wealth?

R.E. LEARY

Shelburne

## Same Philosophies

I continue to be amazed that the opposition can't understand why the mayor would want to surround himself with people whose ideas and goals are similar to his.

Would Maurice Mahoney, were he to become mayor, surround himself with strangers? Would Theodore Riehle, were he mayor, appoint people to implement a philosophy with which he disagreed? Of course not. These men know that to get their own policies carried out they would appoint, and listen to the advice of, people who think like themselves. That is why they prefer to have people from their own political parties control the city's commissions. Mayor Sanders is no

different in wanting to work with people whose philosophy has much in common with his.

I take umbrage at being referred to as a clone. Loyal, yes. A socialist, yes. But a clone, no.

Really, now. Can't anyone have a different view of things without being subjected to name-calling?

JEANNE KELLER

Burlington

• Jeanne Keller is assistant city clerk in Burlington.

## Great Area Asset

How can Burlington Mayor Bernard Sanders make such an absurd statement including the words, "an asset which earns us nothing"? Doesn't the mayor realize that the Burlington International Airport is one of Burlington's greatest assets, whether or not actual cash goes for other city services?

Certainly he has enough vision to realize that a community, a state and an area of the country benefit from assets such as a fine airport in indirect ways.

Most of us realize that the Chittenden County area is one of the most vital areas of Vermont. The employment picture, the standard

of living and life in general is one of the best in the country.

Let us not pursue narrow minded, short-sighted means of revenue-raising and lose the great progress that decades of good planning and work have brought to this area.

L.A. VEZINA

Colchester

## Open Meeting

Anyone seeking a peaceful moment by the waters of Lake Champlain may find it in the green space at the foot of College Street where dedicated volunteers have built a walkway and a low wall for water and sunset viewing.

Those who come equipped with rod and bait may sit on the great gray rocks and try fisherman's luck. Beaver and blue heron will be their companions.

Tonight at 7:30 waterfront enthusiasts will meet in City Hall to air their views on the future of Burlington's incomparable asset.

The meeting will include discussion of the Alden plan and alternatives to it, and is open to all.

DOROTHY B. HUNT

Burlington