

through the dormitories, the student unions, and the classrooms. At the same time, our college students have taken a deep and serious look at the issues of this conflict. Their voice is being raised for all the Nation to hear.

I am proud to say that at the University of Missouri recently over 1,200 students, after considering the critical complexities of Vietnam, signed a petition circulated by the Missouri College Young Democrats in conjunction with the Young Republicans, declaring their full support for the President's policy in Vietnam.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of this resolution be placed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

VIETNAM PETITION

Whereas the American commitment in the Vietnam war has become a major issue on many college campuses.

Whereas some of the most striking dissenters to American policy in Vietnam have been college students.

Whereas these critics seem unrepresentative of the majority of the students at the University of Missouri at Columbia: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we the undersigned students of the University of Missouri at Columbia, after consideration of the critical complexities of this issue, affirm our support of President Lyndon B. Johnson and his administration's policy in Vietnam.

TRUTH IN LENDING

Mr. DOUGLAS. Mr. President, Mrs. Esther Peterson, Executive Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs, has officially informed me of the resolution passed by the Consumer Advisory Council, January 14, 1966, calling for prompt congressional enactment of fair packaging and truth-in-lending legislation as requested by the President in his state of the Union message, as well as enactment of improvements in the food, drug, and cosmetic acts.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE CONSUMER ADVISORY COUNCIL, JANUARY 14, 1966

Whereas President Johnson, in his state of the Union message, has called for action "to prevent the deception of the American consumer—requiring all packages to state clearly and truthfully their contents—all interest and credit charges to be fully revealed—and keeping harmful drugs and cosmetics away from our stores"; and

Whereas President Johnson, in his state of the Union message, has indicated his intent to propose legislation "to seek an end to the mounting tragedy of destruction on our highways"; and

Whereas the Consumer Advisory Council, on a number of occasions, has strongly urged enactment of fair packaging and truth-in-lending legislation, the omnibus food and drug amendments called for in the President's Message on Consumer Interests of 1964, and legislation promoting automobile safety; and

Whereas consumers have a vital interest in seeing that prices are kept down: Therefore, be it

Resolved by the Consumer Advisory Council, That the Congress promptly enact fair packaging and truth-in-lending legislation as requested by the President in his state of the Union message, thus improving the ability of the consumer to choose the best buy and to exert a strong influence in holding down the price line; be it further

Resolved, That Congress buttress the consumer's right to safety by swiftly enacting the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act improvements called for in President Johnson's state of the Union message; be it further

Resolved, That Congress act favorably on legislation to assure minimum tire safety standards and legislation to require new cars to incorporate other prescribed safety features.

NEW MEXICO PUBLISHER BEATS THE BIRCH SOCIETY

Mr. MONTROYA. Mr. President, the February 11, 1966, issue of Time magazine, in its "Press" section, carries an article that I commend to my colleagues' attention.

The article deals with the courageous legal battle carried out by the publisher of the Southwesterner, Mr. Bill McGaw, after a member of the John Birch Society attempted to organize an advertising boycott to stifle his criticism of the Birchers.

It gives me particular pleasure to tell you that the story has a happy ending. In the face of the massed legal and propaganda talent of the Birch Society, my friend Mr. McGaw won his case.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the complete text of this excellent article appear at this point in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EDITORS: SHOWDOWN IN THE SOUTHWEST

The litigious reader ready to sue a newspaper for libel at the drop of an insult has become a familiar courtroom character. But this time the roles were reversed. The editor was suing one of his readers. And to add to the novelty, the editor won. Bill McGaw, owner, editor, publisher, and principal reporter of the Southwesterner, claimed that his monthly journal of Western lore had been damaged by the actions of Alamogordo, N. Mex., Furniture Dealer A. A. Webster, Jr., a member of the John Birch Society. And a jury agreed—to the amount of \$20,000.

A tough-talking hombre with a shock of silver-white hair and a mustache to match, Bill McGaw, 51, does not usually concern himself with current events. He likes to roam the West, tracking down such legends as the saga of the one-woman bawdyhouse in Columbus, N. Mex. Along the way he collects Western relics, including the stagecoach that may have carried President Polk to his inauguration. In July 1963 he learned that the New Mexico Press Association had held a dinner in honor of defeated California Congressman John Rousselot, who is presently the public relations director of the John Birch Society. McGaw suddenly got excited about current events.

POISONED SPRINGS

"What the hell is the matter with the newspaper editors of this State?" he asked in an editorial. "The very guardians of our intellectual outposts, the very men who should be sounding the warning against radicalism, import this poison to our springs and beg us

to sit and sup with them. Birchites and Communists are probably bent upon the same goals, the main one of which is the destruction of confidence in our Government. I, too, consider myself a conservative. I stand for the old-fashioned principles of this country and will fight for them, but that doesn't include harboring Birchites or Communists or any other half-baked radicals, fanatics and seditionists."

If Rousselot read the attack, he ignored it. But Furniture Dealer Webster was outraged. He circulated a letter to McGaw's advertisers: "I ask if you, as a pro-American, anti-Communist businessman, plan to support a newspaper which is evidently following the Communist Party line?" In answer, some 13 advertisers pulled out of the Southwesterner; the newspaper, which had lost \$2,500 the previous year, lost an additional \$1,400.

McGaw filed suit in Federal court, asking for \$1,800,000 from the Birch Society; in State court, he demanded the same sum from Webster. Once the Birch Society won a court order protecting the secrecy of its membership lists, McGaw was unable to prove that Webster was the society's legal agent, and he was forced to withdraw his Federal suit. When that happened, the Birch Society, which had filed a countersuit against McGaw, also called off its lawyers. Had the Birch Society gone into court as a plaintiff, it would have faced the difficult task of proving that it had suffered damages from McGaw's editorial. More important, it could have been forced to produce the same membership lists that it was so anxious to keep under wraps.

A REPORT THAT BACKFIRED

In State court, where he sued Webster instead of the Birch Society, the angry editor fared better. The defense tried the classic libel defense of truth. McGaw's editorial, the lawyers said, followed the Communist line, just as Webster had charged. Appearing as a star witness, far-right Commentator Dan Smoot agreed that the editorial was Communist lining, and the same point was made in a deposition from Martin Dies, onetime chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee. But then the defense quoted some words of praise for the John Birch Society from a California Senate subcommittee on un-American activities. Once that report had been introduced as evidence, the tactic backfired. McGaw's attorneys were able to read parts that the defense lawyers had ignored, sections that compared the Birch Society to the Communist Party, just as McGaw had done. After that, the jury was convinced.

Throughout the trial, the courtroom was packed with spectators openly sympathetic to Webster. Some of them may have kept busy after hours as well. McGaw received obscene telephone calls at his hotel. "They were so vile," he recalls, "that I couldn't repeat them to a marine drill sergeant—and my own language is pretty salty." Victory should help him bear up under the insults. But it may be some time before McGaw can collect his \$20,000. Last week Webster announced his intention of appealing the decision.

MANY BENEFITS FROM FLOOD CONTROL

Mr. PROXMIRE. Mr. President, the importance of flood control projects, so dramatically illustrated by floods last year in my State and the Midwest, is also emphasized by the adequate flow in the main channel of the Missouri River during the relative dry spell earlier this winter. The water held back and stored in upstream reservoirs during spring and