

Letters to the Editor

THE UNION DEMOCRAT welcomes letters for publication as long as they are tasteful, responsible, deal with subjects of general interest and are signed by the writer. Letters should not exceed 250 words, and the newspaper reserves the right to edit for style and brevity. Comment on political issues welcome, of course, but no candidate endorsements please.

Parrotts Ferry Next

To the Editor:
I am extremely concerned that the citizens of Tuolumne county are not aware that Parrotts Ferry is soon going to disappear beneath the New Melones reservoir. The campground at Melones has drowned. Now the same is about to happen at Parrotts Ferry. We want to be able to enjoy the Stanislaus river, to sit by it, bathe in it, play with it, watch and listen to it flowing free. No flooding of Parrotts Ferry.

Donald C. Harriman
Sonora

Oil Warnings Ignored

To the Editor:
About 10 years ago (1968 I believe) following a meeting of the American Petroleum institute, we were warned that we were running out of easily-recoverable domestic oil and gas.

The warning got very little mention in the news, apparently was ignored by the government regulatory agency, lawmakers and environmentalists. The politicians continued to use the "oil cartel" as whipping boy to help get them into office. The news media had more important things to cover—Nixon, the adventures of Jackie and who was getting a divorce in Hollywood.

The power commission kept the price of oil and gas down; everybody liked that. We continued to burn that cheap gasoline to run to the store just a block away, for a quart of milk. The politicians voted out the oil depletion allowance; that brought a few votes.

So the "oil cartel" went overseas, where it was easier to deal with the Arabs than our bureaucrats, easier to drill for oil and they could still sell it to us at the pumps for 25 or 30 cents a gallon, back in the 1960s.

Then our overseas suppliers (who our regulators couldn't regulate) got smart and decided the oil under

their desert was worth much more than the value our government placed on our domestic oil and told us we would have to pay them 9 . . . 11 . . . 14 dollars a barrel—and still going up.

There are as many opinions as there are bureaucrats as to what to do about it, and whose fault it is?

The Washington politicians say "it's big oil" and "big oil" say it's the regulators. The news media merely "pour fuel on the fire," showing the cars lined up at the gas pumps; that sells papers.

I'm not attempting to hang a halo over the heads of the oil companies (I don't even own any oil stock.) I am saying I'd be pretty stupid to hold only them responsible. We had all better start doing something to help because when there's no gasoline for our car, no electricity for the toaster and the farmer can't plant for lack of fuel for his tractor, then is when we'll believe there's a shortage.

Then is when the demonstrations will start, the radicals will blow up a few refineries and oil rigs. (That'll help a lot.)

As Walter would say, "And that's the way it is."

Lloyd V. Mickels
Columbia

Only One Stanislaus

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in the hope that I can give you my feelings in regard to the flooding of Parrotts Ferry on the Stanislaus river. I cannot believe that is being done. It is one of the heaviest used recreational rivers in California and it is being lost forever.

We must realize that many areas for river recreation are not comparable to the Stanislaus. I personally use it for hiking, rafting and kayaking. I have spoken to many people who fish, gold pan, swim and camp. Caving and many Indian artifacts are also in the area.

It is my understanding that 90,000 to 100,000 people do actively use the canyon. Certainly they cannot hope to find appeasement in the fact that they can now add power boating and bass fishing to their interests. We have many flat water dams, but only one Stanislaus.

Please print this letter and forgive its handwritten state. I am sure many citizens share this feeling.

Jeff Jones
Angels Camp

Resisting the Filling

To the Editor:

I understand that the Parrotts Ferry bridge may be overrun with the water from Melones reservoir very soon. I object to this filling of the reservoir very much. I love the Stanislaus river canyon, so to fill the reservoir above Parrotts Ferry would destroy much of my livelihood. Natural lakes are very nice, but to create a lake at the expense of the trees, wildlife and natural beauty of the Stanislaus canyon is a shame to modern man. I urge everybody to support resistance to the filling of Melones reservoir above Parrotts Ferry bridge.

Craig Schwyn
Columbia

'Most Beautiful River'

To the Editor:

I am writing you concerning one of the most beautiful river canyons our state has to offer or our country for that matter. I am talking about the Stanislaus river, of course.

This river canyon, which was carved by ice thousands of years ago, where some of our earliest settlers lived, worked and died, has to be saved.

Our children, who are being deprived of clean air, clean water, and increasingly more and more places to enjoy these things, deserve it.

Don't steal from children. Save the Stanislaus.

David Ward
Angels Camp

Parrotts Ferry Limit

To the Editor:

On June 2, the people of California and other parts of the country will come together to protest the filling of the Stanislaus river canyon by the New Melones dam.

The reservoir has backed to within 200 yards of the historic bridge at Parrotts Ferry and may well reach the historic bridge by the middle of the week.

The protest will reassert the compromise fill made by "Friends of the River"; that is, no filling above Parrotts Ferry.

Help stop the filling by writing your congressman, senators and other representatives. Come June 2 and let your voice be heard.

David Boyd
Big Hill