

Letters [continued]

schools should expediently be coerced to close down, it is conceivable that there will be a fierce battle among prospective, wealthy students and that academically qualified lower-income students, especially minorities, will have to withdraw from the premedical race and consider alternative careers. Many premedical students are majoring in an area of biology. What will be the job outlook for those who are not given a chance to be medical students?

KEN MURANAKA
Des Plaines, Ill.

The irony of the glut of doctors is the fact that the uniformed services and the Public Health Service are in desperate need of doctors. Perhaps the solution is to give federal aid only to students who agree to practice in the uniformed or public-health services.

DONALD A. SEIBERT
Fayetteville, N.C.

Sagging Productivity

There was greater significance in what your panel of experts didn't say about our anemic productivity than in what they did say ["How to Stop Sag in Productivity—Experts' Ideas," July 28]. Inevitably, we are reaping the side effects of Big Brother's relentless drive toward socioeconomic egalitarianism, which erodes and cheapens pride of workmanship and tends toward the convoy principle of everyone traveling at the speed of the slowest. Why doesn't someone have the courage to articulate what the proud workers of America are saying to each other?

FRANK POWELL
Florence, Ala.

Might I suggest that future labor-negotiated contracts contain the promise that, if labor gets a 10 percent increase in wages and benefits, labor will give industry a 10 percent increase in production, so that industry can then hold prices at present levels, which in turn would hold down inflation. This would require the bureaucrats to stop the money-printing presses, to permit investors a fair return on their investment (without confiscatory taxation) and to lessen bureaucratic regulations.

HUGH E. WILLIAMS
Seattle

I agree with Amitai Etzioni that "productivity is determined by the predisposition that employees bring to their jobs," and I am getting pretty tired of dragging myself off to work

each day for the privilege of paying taxes to support our abusive welfare system, ineffective and abusively wasteful government programs, excessive refugee programs, crooked politicians and their staffs, the rebuilding of cities burned to the ground by blacks seeking attention and an excuse to loot, etc., etc. There is absolutely no incentive to work and be productive when unproductive, undeserving individuals and government programs that don't work collect the benefit of our labor.

D. M. SCHOFIELD
Framingham, Mass.

Livable Environment

Regarding "A Conversation With Marguerite Yourcenar" [July 28] and her statement that "we now have the power to destroy the natural environment" and her concern of our responsibility to future generations for a livable environment—which is something entirely ignored by Republicans and Democrats—I raise a question by Henry David Thoreau: "What good is a (White) house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?"

CHRIS B. STOKES
Madison, Conn.

Draft Registration

Well, I just got through registering for the draft ["What's Really at Stake in the Draft Controversy," August 4]. There is no war, no direct threat to our nation's security, yet Mr. Carter wants my name and address. Does he want my life? My God, I hope the country doesn't get involved in another so-called police action. I don't want my life to go to waste!

Carter has said, "The Democratic Party is the party of compassion." What is compassionate about a draft? Don't get me wrong. I'm not unpatriotic. I'll be going into Air Force pilot training when I get my M.S. degree, unless Carter wants me to waste my skills on a Marine boot-camp obstacle course. But then, he wastes my money, so why shouldn't he waste my life.

STEVEN M. RAY
Dallas

Every young man and woman in the U.S. should be required by law, when they reach the age of maturity, to give one or two years of their life to the military service, and, if not physically or mentally fit to serve in the armed forces, they should be required to serve in a hospital or administrative ca-

capacity. Then, if a national emergency materializes, all would be seasoned and trained to step into the gap.

ROBERT D. FLEISCHER
Morris Plains, N.J.

The draft has never been popular. Inequities in this country's first draft act (during the Civil War) led to the New York draft riot of 1863, in which 500 people were killed. Two years later, the 13th Amendment was ratified. It abolished slavery and strictly prohibited any form of "involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime." In view of the "involuntary servitude" clause, I have grave doubts about the constitutionality of any form of military draft.

MARC A. POULIN
Sun Valley, Calif.

Property Tax

You ably described "Real Estate's Booms and Busts Through History" [July 21], but were quite brief on remedies. If we were to reform the property tax so that it applies to land values only, not buildings, then we would hold back land-price booms. We would also counter busts by untaxing buildings and by encouraging landowners to use their sites more efficiently. Who would keep land out of full use if it were heavily taxed? And if buildings were untaxed, it would be cheaper to operate them and build new ones. The idea is working well in Australia. Why aren't we moving in that direction?

STEVEN CORD
Indiana, Pa.

Trial in Chattanooga

"Black Anger on the Rise Again" [August 4] erroneously reported that blacks rioted in Chattanooga after an all-white jury "acquitted whites accused of murdering blacks." The three men brought to trial were accused of attempted murder after they peppered five black women with buckshot. None of the women were seriously hurt. Furthermore, two of the three were acquitted, but one was sentenced to 20 months in jail.

DAVID CRESWELL
Signal Mountain, Tenn.

Editor's note: Mr. Creswell is correct.

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Letters

to the Editor

Billy Carter Affair

Regarding Billy Carter's \$220,000 deal with Libya [August 4 issue]: The U.S. is holding eight C-130 Hercules aircraft purchased by the Libyan government in 1973. These should be released to Libya, and the No. 1 passenger should be Billy Carter with a one-way ticket.

DONALD M. LUNDY
Wichita, Kans.

I am not overenthused with the Presidency of Jimmy Carter. But I cannot help but feel that a lot of hoopla is being made over nothing. What can a man do but tolerate his brother?

B. L. TATE
Fayetteville, Ark.

I've often wondered what my break-point would be if I were taken hostage. I now know the answer: Finding out that Billy Carter is helping negotiate for my release.

C. KELLENBERGER
St. Peters, Mo.

Washington's Spending

"Where Federal Dollars Give Business a Lift" [July 28] is very interesting,

but fails to point out that the tremendous spending of the federal government is a two-way street. All the money that Washington spends by and large comes from the paychecks of American workers and the profits of American corporations. If this money were left with the workers and corporations, it would be used to purchase goods and services as well as make improvements and investments, all of which would "prime the pump" and benefit all Americans. It becomes a question as to who spends our money: Us or Uncle Sam?

JOHNIE R. BAKER
Jackson, Miss.

Glut of Doctors

A first-year economics student can explain that "Worries Over a Glut of Doctors" [July 28] are ill-founded. Demand for medical services has increased over the last few decades, due in large part to government and private-sector health insurance. This demand has pushed up the cost of medical care, including doctors' salaries, which have inflated at a greater pace than any of the other professions. Simple but powerful marketplace forces will insure that the increase in the sup-

ply of doctors will help both bring medical costs down to a more reasonable level and redistribute doctors to geographically underserved areas.

ROBERT S. MARJAN
Wheaton, Ill.

The government wants to cut back the production of doctors in order to keep medical costs from rising? Gee whiz, I always thought an increase in supply resulted in a lowering of prices! The law of supply and demand, and all that. Ah, but I forget—that is predicated upon a free market. Perhaps the government should get some of its monopolistic-practices watchdogs off the backs of industry and onto the AMA and the county medical associations, which, of course, do not "fix" prices, heavens to Betsy, but merely "recommend" fees, and not incidentally also control who can or cannot get accredited to local hospitals and, hence, who can or cannot have a viable medical practice.

WILLIAM H. WHEELER
Westlake Village, Calif.

Competition for admission to medical school is very high. If the government should decide to reduce its support to medical schools, and if some