

Editorial

Civil liberty and the slavery of drugs

The War on Drugs now sweeping the United States like a growing tidal wave, will, one day, be appreciated as one of the nobler and more authentic Liberation Wars of our century, a century in which the noble words of liberty and liberation had been liberally abused.

An unfortunate human being's addiction to drugs has always been abhorred for no other reason than that the addicted person, because of his total subjugation to mind-controlling substances, has lost that which makes him uniquely human, his *free will*. This godly spark dwelling inside each and all of us, this free will, this *Spirit of Freedom*, is the kernel and the anchor both of our civilization and of our particular political culture.

Our laws have been conceived to be the efficient protectors of the individual's free will, of the Spirit of Freedom residing inside the souls of men and women.

Our civil liberties have been promulgated for the sole purpose of being the handmaids of this Spirit of Freedom, the handmaids of free will.

Our civilian and military institutions exist for no other reason but to safeguard this Spirit of Freedom, individual free will.

This funny bird, individual free will, does not exist in abstract space and time. It only exists inside the souls of individual men and women. And it is this inside of the souls of individual men and women which is Freedom's ultimate battlefield. Freedom is won or lost on this battlefield. And it is this battlefield, the individual's souls and mind, which has been invaded by mind-altering substances, drugs.

Tens of millions of Americans, men and women, have lost their battle for freedom to drugs, they have become addicted and thus lost their free will, the Spirit of Freedom. The dimension of the drug epidemic have, therefore, become a matter of national security concern, as President Reagan has correctly found in his April 8 National Security Decision Memorandum.

When President Reagan announced that he will lead the way by personally taking a voluntary drug test in the hope that all federal employees will follow his ex-

ample, the *Washington Post* dedicated its lead editorials for two days, Aug. 7 and 8, to a hysterical attack against any drug tests, voluntary or compulsory. Hypocritically, the *Washington Post* argued that such tests are an invasion of privacy, a violation of liberty, a subversion of the Bill of Rights, oppressive, tyrannical, and unfair. Hypocritically, the *Washington Post* wrote: "We yield to none in abhorrence of drugs or desire to purge the society of their terrible influence. But the regimen to which this points in the long run sap the society even more. It is not just ludicrous, but invasive, the more destructive of the privacy and presumptions on which the society is based because it pretends not to disturb them. Call it off."

This is hokum. But we must address it because it is the prevailing sentiment in the vast majority of the journalistic profession. The *Washington Post* must understand our problem in the following way: Our society is obliged to restore freedom to the tens of millions of its members who have lost it to drugs. Unless we administer tests, we cannot identify the enslaved victims who need help. The victims, no longer possessing free will, are unable to come forward and solicit help.

If the *Washington Post* and the rest of the journalistic profession are truly committed to the principles of liberty they so ostentatiously profess, they should come forward to take the drug test. Let us have a Free Press. A Drug-Free Press.

The freedom which was bequeathed to us by the American Constitution, does not include the freedom to choose slavery, including enslavement to drugs. It is only the freedom to cultivate the inner, godly spark of individual free will. The apparent paradoxes of the matter were fully debated by the framers and, before them, by John Milton in his *Areopagitica*. The poet Shelley, in his sonnet "Political Greatness," put the matter thus: ". . . Man who man would be,/Must rule the empire of himself; in it/Must be supreme, establishing his throne/ On vanquished will, quelling the anarchy/Of hopes and fears, being himself alone."