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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's Await the Findings

This letter is not to question the right and freedom of debate by the press and individuals or even criticism of the president of the United States and his administration over the Iran-contra affair.

This letter is to suggest that the continuing discussion and criticism await the findings and conclusions of the investigation in order that the debate and its determinations will be based on truth.

Mistakes have been made, as has been stated by the president, but there is nothing that we have heard or read to show that the president has been deliberately untruthful in his statements. It is only fair to await the findings and conclusions of the special fact-finding committees of the House and Senate. Also, there is the committee named by the president himself composed of respected citizens, and only recently has he named David Abshire, recently ambassador to

NATO, to oversee and coordinate the work of the National Security Council.

I hope that the committees will study the Constitution and that it will be read by all of us. The Constitution provides that the president possesses not only the right and authority as commander in chief of the armed forces of our country, but also through its construction, the duty to protect the United States and its people. Mistakes may be made, but this authority and duty rest alone with the president, and not with any other branch of the government. Congress has the power to declare war and to fund or reduce support for it by its power of appropriation, but it has no power over the president's authority and duty to protect our country and its people.

In the early days of the Republic, President Jefferson ordered out small fighting ships to go into the harbors and on the shores of Libya and destroy the Libyan powers and pirates who were attacking U.S. ships. Last year, President Reagan ordered the same harbor and coast to be bombed because Libya was firing at our Air Force planes and supporting terrorism. Today, it is reported by the press that Libyan forces are attacking a neighbor, Chad.

It is my belief that this investigation will disclose that President Reagan has acted constitutionally and rightly in his effort to protect our country, its people, including those held as hostages. He has taken an oath to protect and defend the Constitution.

The people of our country should stand in support of the president and thus not weaken our country before the peoples and governments of other countries.

JOHN SHERMAN COOPER
Washington

The writer is a former Republican senator from Kentucky.

Beltway Solos

I don't doubt that Steve Forrester [letters, Jan. 10] sees a lot of single-passenger cars on the Beltway—I see them too. Believe me, I would love to car pool, but I'm one of the many unfortunates who have to stay on at the office after the poolers have run blithely out the door, leaving me to fill in for them, answer their personal calls, tell their car-pool members what time they left, etc.

I agree that car pooling helps, and I'm for it. But I'm also for consideration and fairness.

So let's think it all out when guessing the "basic cause of the traffic mess" and placing the blame.

SUZANNE MARTIN
Great Falls

Contraspeak

I like Mary McGrory's idea of turning Lafayette Park into a bazaar for the contras ["Cookies for the Contras," Jan. 11]. Only instead of the quartet she proposes, I'd suggest a larger Iranian-Israeli mariachi rock group bearing the ProContraBand label. The band's lyrics would partake of that post-1984 manifestation of doublespeak known as Pro-ContraDiction, and they'd therefore serve to remind us that our foreign policy seems to have fallen into the hands of a bunch of oxymorons.

JOHN F. ANDREWS
Washington

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