

121 Furnace Street
Birdsboro, Pennsylvania
June 20, 1966

TO: The Supreme Court Justices

Dear Sirs:

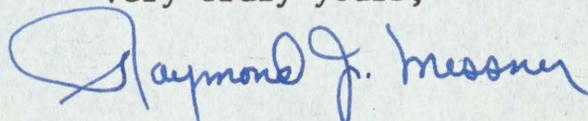
Just a little note to let you know that I am very disgusted with some of your decisions of late, especially the Miranda v. Arizona decision of last week.

It seems to me -- and I consider myself an average American citizen -- that some of you fellows are becoming very removed from reality. Ever since World War II we have heard people say that eventually we are going to have to fight the Russians. I say to you today that if we continue to have decisions that protect the suspected criminal and tie the hands of our law enforcement officers - with never a thought to protecting society and the innocent victims of these atrocious crimes - the Russians can take over this country without a war.

Enclosed is an article that appeared in the Reading, Pennsylvania, newspaper "The Reading Times" under today's date. This sums up everything and surely expresses my feelings.

In closing let me pose one question to you: Would you like to be a police officer under the laws that you are handing down in recent years?

Very truly yours,



Raymond J. Messner

RJM:cm
Enc.

Old Pete

Don't Ask,
And It'll
Be All Right

By DICK PETERS

WELL, the U.S. Supreme Court has done it again. Put the handcuffs on the good guys instead of the baddies.

If this keeps up, Junior would be a darned fool to waste four years at college. He should start right in after high school and learn how to be a good crook. It'll be more profitable.

What the Supreme Court now has done is say that a



Peters

police man cannot question a suspect if he is alone and "indicates in any manner that he does not want to be interrogated". Holy subpoena! Even Batman will be going out of business, if Earl Warren and his buddies continue to soften the rules in favor of the criminal set.

This could have considerable effect, of course, on the ordinary Joe, who is not normally a crook.

Old Pete can imagine the conversation some night when a policeman pulls a motorist over along the highway.

"Say, friend," begins the officer, "You were going pretty fast, and I..."

The motorist immediately sounds off: "I do not wish to answer any questions. Not unless you get my lawyer."

"Now wait a minute," says the policeman, "I tracked you at 60 miles per hour for the last two blocks, and what I want..."

"Get my lawyer, pal, if you want to ask me any questions, I know my constitutional rights and I do not wish to give any answers."

Reading Times
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THE COP begins to bridle a bit. "For heavens sake, sir, I haven't asked any questions yet. What are you getting so excited about?"

"There! You asked a question. You certainly did, and I am not about to tell why I am getting excited. Constitutionally, I do not have to say why I'm getting excited. Besides, who's excited?"

The policeman replies:

"See? Now you're the one who's asking questions, aren't you?"

"I refuse to answer whether I am asking questions. The judges down there in Washington said I don't have to answer whether I am asking questions. I know my rights."

"Look, mister, I know you know your rights. And I'm not about to violate them. You think I want this to become a federal case?"

"There you go again. I refuse to answer whether you want this to become a federal case. I don't have to answer that question at all."

The policeman throws his hands in the air. "Oh, for goodness sake, stop it. Just in case I would ask you a question, who is your lawyer?"

"I don't have to tell you that. You asked a question, and I don't have to answer."

With this the policeman gives up. "Friend, just get moving. All I stopped you for was to tell you that you have a flat tire on the right rear. You didn't know it, did you?"

"Officer, I repeat. I refuse to answer..."

Escobedo

(over)