Some thoughts on America

Glancing through the opinion pages of our major newspapers has provided an opportunity to reflect on the future of some of our most cherished democratic institutions. The messages delivered by some of the most astute observers of U.S. culture present a conflicted forecast of America's future.

Within the past weeks, we have been treated to various pop analyses of the rise and fall of John DeLorean, entrepreneur and former General Motors vice-president, chronicled in the major newspapers and recorded on all of the nightly news broadcasts. The dramatic nature of the former non-conformist executive married to the top fashion model has prompted some thoughts on the future of some of our most cherished institutions.

Unfortunately, most of these "cliché" stories fail to recognize that DeLorean has not yet been convicted of any crime by any court. And DeLorean's current legal troubles prevent him, or any desultory non-conformist executive married to the top fashion model has ever been convicted of any crime by any court, from ever reading newspapers or watching television news broadcasts. Neither alternative boorwell be for DeLorean. The extensive interest in the press, protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution, conflicts with the accused's Fifth Amendment right to a fair trial. Unfortunately, one of those must suffer. The most probable victim of this conflict will be DeLorean himself, who, although he now is a media star, will face a life without the benefit of a fair trial and other media attention. The lesson MIT students can draw from his plight is obvious: don't work for GM.

Without unemployment at its highest level since the Great Depression, the most striking feature of last week's off-year Congressional elections was probably the relatively small number of seats the Republicans actually lost - twenty-six. For the last weeks, we have been treated to various pop analyses of election campaign ads for Democratic candidates won 70 percent of seats. Broder, however, compared the fifteen of the 337 seats the NCPAC supported candidates won 70 percent of their races. Broder, however, compared the fifteen of the 337 seats the NCPAC supported candidates won to the potential loss of 20 seats. NCPAC targeted for defeat in 1980, and supplemented this with a list of three representatives earmarked in 1981. Of the NCPAC's targeted representatives, all were filled with the Federal Election Commission. NCPAC spent $39.001,776 in 1981-1982. Maybe there is hope for democracy yet.

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