

Around the Agencies . . .

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All the same, it was a strange article, naming Tozzi as an OMB power a month after he left OMB, and referring to Jim Miller as Tozzi's "boss" almost two years after Miller left to chair the Federal Trade Commission.

Meanwhile, back at OMB, officials are getting headaches over the article's mention of a proposed aspirin bottle regulation. The regulation would require the bottles to bear a warning that aspirin had been linked to Reye's syndrome, a rare but often fatal childhood illness. The *Journal* article said Tozzi played a major role in killing the proposed rule.

Not so, according to Boyden Gray, counsel to the President's Task Force on Regulatory Relief. Gray said the rule was delayed, not killed, pending further research, upon the recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

A final decision will be made before the next flu season arrives, Gray said, adding that Tozzi had little to do with the decision.

We mourn the passing of Eric Hoffer, the longshoreman-philosopher who so eloquently defined the fanatical mind that made movements like Nazism, fascism and communism possible. His major work, *The True Believer*, remains a classic. Hoffer's thoughts are pertinent to our times. The following are a few samples:

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"The passion for equality is partly a passion for anonymity, to be one thread of the many which make up a tunic, one thread not distinguishable from the others . . . They want to eliminate free competition and the ruthless testing to which the individual is continually subjected in a free society."

"Economic dependence is maintained by centralizing economic power and by deliberately created scarcities of the necessities of life.

"America is the worst place for alibis . . . Here you are your own creator and your own ancestor."

We have another item for our Well Whaddayaknow file. According to a recent report in *The Washington Post*, buried, of course, in the back pages, the U.S. Public Health Service released a new study showing that residents of Love Canal did not experience any chromosome damage related to exposure to hazardous chemical wastes.

This news "item" is news only

to members of the media and the unfortunate public who must depend upon the media.

The Public Health Service found that the original 1980 study by the Environmental Protection Agency, that touched off the furor in Love Canal, was invalid primarily because it did not use a control group.

This is not news. On the day the ill-fated report was issued, the Department of Health and Human Services convened a panel of experts who subsequently made the same finding. Later the state of New York and the EPA itself went through the same review process and reached identical conclusions.

All of this has been reported and re-reported by a variety of small publications, such as this one, but it has not been reported through the main media outlets to the majority of the American people.

As we have said before, the Love Canal "myth" has become a part of American folklore and will go down in history as one of the biggest shams since the Battle of Breed's Hill was mistakenly reported to have occurred on Bunker Hill.

State level prompt pay legislation is the subject of a coalition of trade associations. The coalition is working to get the same type of prompt pay legislation enacted by Congress in 1982.

The tendency of government agencies, federal and state, to dally in paying bills is a major problem for business, especially small firms.

Following business' success in getting a federal law that requires prompt payment by federal agencies, the coalition of 21 national and regional trade associations was formed to seek the same kind of action at the state level.

The coalition is doing well. So far, 15 states have enacted such measures and five more are halfway there, having obtained approval from at least one of their legislative chambers.

For more information, contact the Coalition for State

The Business Action Network

Washington Watch

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Editor: Hank Cox

Assistant Editor: Melody J. Blank

Editorial Assistants: Shelley Raymond, Nancy Jones Johnson

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