

Comment and opinion

Sunday selling editorial draws critique

To the Editor:

Your today's editorial sanctioning open selling every day of the week could stand a bit of critiquing:

PLAN A is to require all businesses never to close: 24 hours a day, 365(6) days a year. The chief argument for this is that I never know when I may need to buy something. I keep irregular hours, and get my big inspirations between 2 and 5 a.m. Just too bad for businesses that can't solve that staffing problem—as your editorial says just too bad for businesses that can't solve the seven-days-a-week staffing problem.

PLAN B is on the books, Sunday closing, on the assumption that this is a Christian country-state-county. The chief argument for this is that it is indeed a Christian country in the minimal sense that no other religion can make so strong a claim on it in terms of origin or present reality; and

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of course Christianity incorporates, here, Judaism's humanitarian concern for the worker, who needs off a day a week—a need better documented today, by social psychologists and so-called "mental health authorities," than ever before.

PLAN C would be—in view of American Christians' fresh sensitization to the feelings and needs of American Jews and Jews everywhere—to expand the present law to include Saturday. Besides, vis-a-vis that movement that got buried in an avalanche of newer movements, "the leisure revolution," doesn't everybody need a two-day weekend?

PLAN D would be—in view of considerations adduced in Plans B and C, plus Yassir

Arafat and Arabs everywhere—to expand the present law to include both Saturday and Islam's holy day, Friday. As everybody knows, the trend is for longer weekends, so why not add humanitarian and religious sanctions to make us more comfortable with them, especially since it would be congruent with emergent global consciousness and with the need to bring the expanding number of workers and the contracting number of needed work-hours into equilibrium?

The early Christians worshipped at sunrise Sundays not only to remember and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus but because soon thereafter they had to get to work: in the Roman Empire, work was every day in the week. Conclusion: Sunday selling is pagan and inhuman.

Willis E. Elliott,
Chappaqua

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