168 Boston Hill Road

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Editor

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To The Editor:

Michael Chotkowski's recent letter might have made it all the way to amusing had it not been so muddled. First, thanks for the election congratulations -- it's hard to lose when running unopposed, though. That he wouldn't have voted for me does not wound me deeply, I'm afraid. I will still do my best for all the children, including any he might have.

When I point out the Andover Republican's misattributed quote, his response boils down to, "Well, it *sounds* like Jefferson." Then he goes on to lecture us about proper quotation!

He critiques my vocabulary, saying "peccadilloes" is too long a word. I really don't feel it's all that uncommon. But be careful, or I'll start using sesquipedalian ones!

Finally -- and I wouldn't have bothered responding except for this inspired piece of nonsense -- he uses the editor's placement of Frank Blume's "Debts and Budgets" letter next to my own as somehow proof that I don't care about a number of issues -- that I am focused exclusively on one issue. Huh? What? I happen to have seventeen years of letters online; a list of the 200 topics discussed is at http://letters.sauyet.com/#/topics/.

I am focused on different issues than Mr. Chotkowski. He mentions a few concerns. Inflation: it's now at 3.2%, lower than during the Reagan years and below wage growth. A border-crisis: if we don't want a Japan-style economy, we probably should be *increasing* immigration. Crime: violent crime rates have been falling for more than 30 years. Drugs: agreed, there's a problem; can we go after the two most deadly ones first? If we can't reduce the harm from tobacco and alcohol, what hope do we have for fentanyl or heroin?

I can't sign off without pointing out that he accuses me of not being conservative. Well, duh!

Sincerely,

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