

424 North George Mason Drive
Arlington 3, Virginia
January 11, 1951

To the Editor of the Star:

Referring to a recent letter from "Gus, the Office Boy" at the headquarters of the Old Dominion Railroad, I will add the following comment.

The Old Dominion must, of course, abide by all pertinent regulations, including those governing the sounding of horns, etc. Engineer Willard Fox is quite competent in this regard, as I can testify from my own daily auditory experience, and I take off my hat to his strict adherence to the regulations.

However, there is room for questioning the desirability of continued existence of the Old Dominion, which once served a highly useful purpose but which can readily be supplanted nowadays by other more efficient modes of transportation. Some persons contend that no self-respecting community would endure the nuisance to which it is daily subjected by this relic of the days of the French and Indian Wars, and would bring about legislation to eliminate the Old Dominion Railroad. Others contend that the situation is a reflection upon the competence of the county and state authorities of Virginia in looking after the welfare of the residents of the very thickly populated districts through, across and around which the Old Dominion tracks meander. However, I am told that the authorities have attempted to bring this about, with the hearty concurrence of the Old Dominion owners themselves, but have been estopped by the wails of a very few old-timers who insist upon its continuance, as required under certain clauses of the franchise.

Could "Gus the Office Boy" throw some light on this question?

William F. Friedman