

Living Far Away

Former Undersecretary of the Interior John C. Whitaker told of being reminded how easy it is to get an out-of-perspective feeling about one's importance in government whenever he thinks of an 85-year-old woman who lived her life in one spot in Nova Scotia.

The population there swells to nine in the summer and stays steady at two during the winter.

Whitaker, who had been fishing there every year since he was 12, flew in one day. Miss Mildred welcomed him into her kitchen and said, "Johnny, I hate to admit I don't know, but where is Washington?"

When Whitaker realized that she wasn't kidding, he explained, "That's where the president is. That's like where you have the prime minister in Ottawa."

Then she asked how many people live there, and Whitaker said there were about 2 million.

Whereupon she observed, "Think of that: 2 million people living so far away from everything."

Consider the truth of her conclusion.

It seems there is a long distance and a wide disparity between the laws being passed and the behavior in Washington compared to the mores of Main Street USA.

– Beecher Hunter