

STREET

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a sentence in 2
that ending is really nice

Jack Baird was a teenager in 1932 when New York City Mayor Jimmy Walker resigned because of a corruption scandal. The corruption uncovered during the Koch administration is "much worse" than during the Walker era, Mr. Baird said.

Mr. Baird, a 74-year-old retired exterminator who lives in Woodside, Queens, said the Mayor is not doing enough to uncover corruption or to ensure that corrupt politicians are prosecuted. "Why doesn't he stop talking and do something?" Mr. Baird asked. "At least Walker had the guts to quit."

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Residents of Woodside, a traditionally Irish working class neighborhood with a large percentage of Hispanic and Asian-American residents, displayed a variety of emotions, ranging from indignation to a "politics as usual" attitude when asked about the municipal corruption scandal yesterday. They were also divided on the question of whether Mayor Koch should be held accountable.

At Donovan's Pub, a popular local gathering place that has been visited by local politicians including Mayor Koch and by Presidential candidate Gary Hart during the 1984 primaries, a patron, George Roduit, said the Mayor should not be held accountable for the corruption that has been uncovered. "He is doing everything in his power to weed it out," said Mr. Roduit, a 53-year-old traffic manager, who predicted that more scandals "will be brought to light" as the result of ongoing investigations.

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Another patron, Patrick Roche, 42, said a special prosecutor should be appointed by the Mayor "to look into everything."

Mr. Roche, who has just retired after 20 years as a New York City police officer, said the Mayor "has given the people of New York nothing but lip service" in response to the scandal.

"He must think the people of New York live in Disney World,"

Mr. Roche added. "You don't think I would know my friends are corrupt?"

Mr. Roche said it is "childish" to think that politicians are motivated by the goal of public service. "A good portion of them seem to be there to fill their pockets with a lot of money," he said. "We're not talking about nickels and dimes. We're talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars."

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Across the street from the pub, a 40-year-old Transit Authority employee who did not wish to give his name pointed to the Wall Street insider trading scandal as an example of the prevalence of corruption outside of politics. His words were occasionally drowned out by the roar of a Flushing Line elevated train.

"I think there's corruption and kickbacks in the T.A. too," the employee, a tower operator, said, "but it's hard to prove."

Joe Dargan, an Irish citizen who is residing in the United States temporarily with the intention of studying business administration, said the Mayor should "step down" because of damage done by the scandal to his capacity for leadership. "He's done his best, but from an outsider's point of view, he's become a laughing stock," said Mr. Dargan, a part-time bartender who worked in the import-export business in Ireland.

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But Heidi Maree, a secretary who lives in Woodside, said the Mayor should not be held accountable for the actions of a few corrupt politicians. "He can't control them," Ms. Maree said.

Almost all the neighborhood residents said city officials should be dealt with severely if found guilty of corrupt activities. "They should be sent to jail," Peter Lin, a 32-year-old salesman, said. "If you don't give them any serious penalty, it's like a disease that will spread."

Mr. Lin said the Mayor should ^{not} be held responsible for "the behavior of those crooks."

A neighborhood resident who works at LaGuardia Airport said he is "outraged" by the scandal. "I think someone should be held accountable more than they have been," the man, who declined to give his full name, said. "Koch should definitely be more aware of what's going on."

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The name of Donald Manes, the former Queens borough president who committed suicide last year after being implicated in the scandal, was mentioned by hardly any of the neighborhood residents. One exception was Norma Pinnella, a middle-aged woman who was carrying a load of bundles while keeping a watchful eye on her two-year-old grandson. "I don't think what he (Manes) did was right, but I think it was very sad," Mrs. Pinnella said.

ENDIT

A very nice visit