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## IN OUR READERS' OPINION

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### THE REAL PROBLEM

» I should like to see your October number of the *MERCURY* in every American home. . . . To me it is of vital significance, especially the editorial, "In the Mercury's Opinion." I congratulate you on your insight into the real problem our nation is facing.

MRS. MARY MAURINE P. ROOT  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

### WHAT PRICE PRESIDENTS?

» The article that appeared in your October issue by Serge Fliegers entitled "What Price Presidents?" was quite interesting and I would like to offer my congratulations to the author on the painstaking thoroughness with which he has approached the important subject of campaign financing.

Particularly of interest was Mr. Fliegers' discussion of the role played by the Citizens for Eisenhower-Nixon Committee and his statement that "this intrusion of amateurs into politics is one of the healthiest developments we have seen during the past few years."

However, I disagree with the writer where he states: "But as regards electoral financing, these groups only serve to complicate the picture and increase the cost of elections. Efforts are duplicated and overhead costs for headquarters, staff, mailing, and publicity

are often tripled." As an independent who has served as second in command of the "State Citizens for Eisenhower" since March 1 of this year, I can sincerely state that up until the convention period we financed and sustained ourselves in our headquarters at the Roosevelt Hotel through the efforts of a splendid group of volunteer workers on our Finance Committee, by getting small contributions through an "Operation Envelope" procedure which brought us from \$1.00 to \$25.00 per contributor, which was an appeal to the masses, as well as to big business. Furthermore, from the figures we have received from the National Finance Committee, certainly very few large contributions were received. Aside from this, you must understand that at our staff headquarters we had as many as 300 volunteers working daily from March 1 to convention time and since then in our new quarters at the Astor Hotel. I believe that our day and night staff comprised many more than this figure, aside from the "Youth for Eisenhower" which was also under our auspices, with a volunteer group of approximately 2,000 young men and women. This also goes for the entire State of New York where we operated approximately 400 Eisenhower Clubs, comprising a figure of close to 30,000 volunteer workers. . . .

Finally, I would like to endorse heartily the suggestion contained in

the article to establish a permanent Congressional Committee charged with supervising and enforcing legislation governing election practices in this country.

LEONARD GINSBERG,  
DIRECTOR, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
NEW YORK STATE CITIZENS FOR  
EISENHOWER-NIXON,  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

### A VITAL MATTER

» Serge Fliegers' article, "What Price Presidents?" was splendid. I read it with keen interest. You have contributed a great deal toward public education on a vital matter.

MAX M. KAMPELMAN,  
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL,  
UNITED STATES SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

### BASIC PROBLEM

» I have just seen the October issue of your magazine and enjoyed it very much. I was struck by Serge Fliegers' essay on "What Price Presidents?" which I think strikes at a very basic problem of our political system.

Such an investigation — to my knowledge — has not been published by any other magazine or newspaper, and I feel the people should know about it. Especially, I agree with Mr. Fliegers' suggestion that a permanent Commission should be created in Congress to supervise and regulate elections.

Having been active in the Republican Party in both Wyoming and Texas I do not believe the idea of party dues is practicable. In the South the poll tax

prevents hundreds of thousands of people from voting. It is excellent psychology to get campaign contributions from as many people as possible. But it is the big donations which finance campaigns.

Mr. Fliegers' article shows a tremendous amount of research and good thinking. Let's have more like it.

MONTE WARNER  
DALLAS, TEXAS

### FIFTH COLUMNIST DULLES?

» I have been a great admirer and constant reader of *THE AMERICAN MERCURY* for its entire twenty-nine years of publication. Many of your articles have been as beacon lights in a night of darkness.

Try to imagine, then, my feelings when reading "In the Mercury's Opinion" in your October issue, Page 7, Column 1, Paragraph 2, Sentence 2: "It was John Foster Dulles who fashioned the Japanese Peace Treaty, the only constructive development in the Pacific." This sentence is pulverizing, not because of what it says but because of what it leaves unsaid. The combined thinking of your editorial staff, plus the research facilities available to you, must certainly have made it clear that John Foster Dulles is the New Deal's "Fifth Column" within the Republican ranks.

M. E. ANDERSON  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

### NO RESPECT

» I received *THE AMERICAN MERCURY*, which I am returning to your office as I know as much about Dean Acheson as you or your *AMERICAN MERCURY*.

We've got the best government in the world and the most prosperous.

I have never had much respect for those who slander and criticize their government and government officials.

The government has an honest, honorable, educated staff for this purpose to keep track of the rascals, thieves, liars and traitors. As we all know, you couldn't even get as many as twelve when our Lord was selecting, without having a traitor in it.

J. M. ANDERSON  
SAVANNAH BEACH, GEORGIA

### NEW JERSEY VISITED

» As an old reader of the *Mencken MERCURY*, I want to tell you that the October number of your *AMERICAN MERCURY* is as good. Kavanagh's "Report on New Jersey" is better than *Mencken*.

America needs satire and more of it. Complacency is our worst enemy. When England needed satire Swift came out of Ireland with it. Let Kavanagh do the same for America. Print more of it.

L. E. A. BYRNS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

### BOG TROTTER BORN?

» I am not usually given to the use of crude language, but having just read Peter Kavanagh's article "The Bog Across the River" in the October issue of the *MERCURY*, I find it necessary to tell you that in my opinion he is —, very ignorant of New Jersey and undoubtedly a bog trotter born. Why not see all of a state before he starts to criticize it and sometime, when he has time, write an article on a

state which doesn't have New Jersey's bad features. I'll bet he can't.

HENRY STRICKER  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

### BOGGY EXPOSITION

» Peter Kavanagh's satirical onslaught may cause many a New Jerseyite, tending to condone the all-too-familiar eyecores on his fair state's otherwise beautiful terrain, to lift an eyebrow, burst a blood vessel or even go into a state of aesthetic shock and/or landscape trauma.

With discerning eye and deft pen he has unsheathed community cankers in his "boggy" exposition featured in your excellent October issue.

Should you be on the outlook for an as yet unrecognized Hemingway equivalent in realism of detail, here's your man. Let's hear more from him!

M. M. ANNEN  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

### BOG VS. SALT MEADOW

» THE *AMERICAN MERCURY*'s article on New Jersey ["The Bog Across the River," by Peter Kavanagh, October, 1952] is an uncalled for slander.

You do not even know the difference between a bog and a salt meadow.

GRANVILLE THOMAS  
MILLVILLE, NEW JERSEY

### HOW TRUE

» I got an awful laugh out of your piece on New Jersey ["The Bog Across the River," October, 1952]. You have to have lived there and worked for the state to know how true it is.

MABEL NASHE  
TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**THE "LEGEND'S" BURDEN**

» In "The Sparkman Legend" [October, 1952] I am wondering where art ends and uncouthness begins. When will the intelligentsia cease to use the South as a platform upon which to appeal to prejudice. The "Legend's" burden is not to show what candidate is best fitted for the job, but to give a Roman Holiday to the South-hating members of the human race who live up Nawth.

CLAYTON STEPHENS, D.V.M.  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

**MEALYMOUTHED**

» "The Sparkman Legend" [October, 1952] was flavorsome and unadulterated. It wet quite a few whistles in these parts, and with lip-smacking appreciation.

*Oleaginous* is a good word for him [Sparkman]. But don't forget that good old expression used by your grandmother and mine — *mealymouthed*.

CHRISTINE ADCOCK WIMBERLY  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

**WEST VIRGINIAN RADICALS**

» In the very significant article "Kilgore: West Virginian Water Boy," in your October number, William Bradford Huie writes: "West Virginia was born of a mountaineers' rebellion against tideland aristocracy; it is one of the states . . . which has nourished native radicalism."

One is tempted to recall that of the forty-eight States of the Union, forty-seven, inspired by the solemn acknowledgment in our Declaration of Independence, invoked, or in some other

phrase, expressed gratitude to God or dependence on a Supreme Being.

West Virginia is not one of the forty-seven.

A. M. DICKSON

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

**DOWN TO EARTH**

» May I say, that although I bought THE AMERICAN MERCURY solely to read the article on Senator Kilgore ["West Virginian Water Boy," October, 1952], I have been unable to stop reading. The articles are so well written. Not the cut and dried stuffy things usually printed, but down-to-earth reading that is clear. . . .

MRS. MERIAN E. MOYER

ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

**SAUCERS AND SULLIVAN**

» I write this letter in regard to the article in your October issue by Victor Black, "The Flying Saucer Hoax."

First, I should like to point out to Mr. Black that the zodiacal light and the northern lights are not the same thing. The zodiacal light is caused by sunlight reflected from meteoric material concentrated within the earth's orbit and near the ecliptic plain. The aurora borealis, northern lights, is ascribed to charged particles coming at high speed from the sun and most abundantly from solar flares. These particles are diverted toward the poles by the earth's magnetic field where they collide with atoms of the upper atmosphere. The ionized atoms recombining with other electrons emit light.

Second, I feel that Mr. Black's entire treatment of "flying saucers" is un-

reasonable, as are his slurs on the field of science fiction. In following reports of the flying saucers I have never before come across mention of Mr. Ed J. Sullivan. I believe that the saucers were *not*, as intimated by Mr. Black, first seen by any Mr. Sullivan. I believe that the first saucer report was by Kenneth Arnold, a trained aircraft observer and pilot.

In one paragraph Mr. Black tells of a "science-fiction craze" that has swept America; he blames this craze on guided missile development, and says that flying saucers belong in *Amazing Stories*. This paragraph shows that Mr. Black knows little about flying saucers and nothing about science fiction. *Amazing Stories* is not one of the leading science-fiction magazines and typifying the science-fiction field by mentioning this magazine is like typifying authors such as Will James and Mark Twain by referring to such magazines as *Wild West* or *Western Romance*. Also, science fiction is not a new "craze," it is much older than Mr. Black unless he was a contemporary of Jules Verne.

PETER HARDEEN  
MADISON, WISCONSIN

### MR. BLACK REPLIES

» I would like to leave the astronomical debate concerning zodiacal light and the northern lights to Mr. Hardeen and the aerophysicists at the California Institute of Technology.

As far as science-fiction literature goes — I confess I seldom read the stuff. But many of the science-fiction magazines do agree with me in that saucers are proper material for their fantasies.

Just the other day I picked one of these magazines off the newsstand and opened it up. There one was — a flying saucer! Big as life!

Mr. Hardeen's assertion that I have not bothered to differentiate fact and fiction in what I write is a little puzzling. The Air Force is still trying to differentiate and spending a good deal of money in the process. When they finally classify flying saucers, I'm sure we'll all hear the earth-shaking announcement. Furthermore, I did not say that flying saucers per se were a hoax. I spent several paragraphs explaining what the Air Force and leading aerophysicists thought they were.

VICTOR BLACK  
TEMPLE CITY, CALIFORNIA

### TRADITION CONTINUED

» Your magazine continues to surprise me. I date back to the older days of the *MERCURY* under Mencken and his less flamboyant successors. When Mr. Huie took over I feared that he had killed the poor old magazine. At least I let my subscription lapse. This summer I have been buying some single copies. I am pleased to note your continued improvement. This September issue which I have is both readable and important from its first article to its last. The need for a more reasonable, intelligent and conservative magazine of letters in this country is profound, and I am hopeful that you may find a considerably wider audience as your virtues become known.

Currently your Dr. Viereck says what many Americans must be think-

ing, but without representation in our main magazines. The same comment applies to the article by Mr. Hunter ["Report on Asia: Defeat by Default," September, 1952]. In book reviews, the *MERCURY* has always been superior, and I am pleased that you are continuing the tradition.

HAROLD W. DORN  
SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA

### CIVILIZED CONSERVATISM

» In appreciation of Professor Viereck's two articles ["In Defense of British Imperialism," September 1952; "Vision and Values," October 1952] and your contribution to the—lost—cause of thoughtful, civilized and civilizing conservatism.

HANNELORE KOENIGSBERGER  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

### A SPADE IS A SPADE

» The October issue of *THE AMERICAN MERCURY* finally did it: I'm positively finished with your magazine. To me, the men behind the *A.M.* are creatures of impulse, of prejudice, of rationalizations—passing judgments that do not comport with facts nor with present-day realities.

I disagree with you when you note that the October issue is "our pre-election issue." Let's call a spade a spade, shall we? Your October issue was your "Republican" issue: a weeping and wailing song-and-dance of emotional stupidity. We've been hearing those fake "charges" for nigh unto twenty-one years and yet America still remains America—the land of the free minus the *laissez-faire* ambitions of money-mad corporations who

constantly preach the doctrine of "free enterprise" and who are intent to control the market through monopolies and cartels.

OTTO V. FOX  
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

### THE MACS

» I fear your drive for subscriptions will not be increased by the banal article: "The Macs and the Ikes" [T. Harry Williams, October, 1952].

Surely the nationally beloved General MacArthur was the first man in America to turn the tide from the apathetic acceptance of the "low" deal in Washington to a high standard of thinking. His courage and vision inspired our people with a new hope for the future welfare of our country.

NAOMI L. BURWELL  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

### BROWBEATING MR. TRUMAN?

» I must say that I would never have thought that one of my favorite periodicals would print something like "The Macs and the Ikes" [October, 1952].

Professor T. Harry Williams says, in his article: "The Mac generals have been men . . . always certain that they were far superior in mental power to the President above them . . . and always ready to instruct him in matters of policy or to try to browbeat him into adopting their ideas."

Is it to be supposed that the use of the term "scholarly piece" in describing Prof. Williams' article removes the obligation to back up such statements as the above with concrete examples? When did MacArthur at-

tempt to "browbeat" Mr. Truman into adopting his ideas? By his address to the V.F.W.? But his position on Formosa therein set forth has since been ostensibly embraced by the Administration. By his letter to Representative Martin? But it should be admitted by all that Congress must have access to the opinions of military geniuses like MacArthur without State Department censorship of those opinions. By asking the Communist generals to meet him in the field to negotiate peace? But note that the same proposal when voiced by the Soviet representative at the U.N., was quickly accepted by the men who fired MacArthur.

RALPH J. RAICO  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

### GROUPING THE GENERALS

» Since Mr. Williams ["The Macs and the Ikes," October, 1952] is classifying generals into groups, it would be interesting to know in which group General Collins, Stillwell, Marshall, and Vaughn are classified?

ANNE STACEY  
MALVERNE, NEW YORK

### WRINGING WITHERS

"The Macs and the Ikes" [T. Harry Williams, October, 1952] was a magnificent article. Like the true historian Mr. William uses the past to throw light on the present.

This article effectually debunks the "MacArthur Legend"; some of the nastiest elements in this country have rallied to that legend. I trust their withers are wrung.

JOHN H. KEYES  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

### TWICE AS LONG?

» The only thing wrong with THE AMERICAN MERCURY is that it should be twice as long.

JANE MULQUEEN  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

### TROUBLED SOULS

» Your book-reviewing Mr. Getlein ["Newman's Odyssey," October, 1952] is a man more given to hyperbole than to discernment. He shows that when, in his review of Sean O'Faolain's *Newman's Way*, he writes: "In a day when the steps of the Catholic church are thronged with converts tossed there by private emotional conflicts, —"

The hyperbole there is obvious. The lack of discernment is, perhaps, not so obviously but just as surely there. Mr. Getlein fails to discern that emotional conflicts can be the manifestation of a troubled soul. To minister to troubled souls is the province of the church. Consequently a conversion resulting from emotional conflicts is not the cheapened thing Mr. Getlein's words imply. He professes to look upon Newman's conversion as a powerful intellectual search for truth. It was all of that, but that Newman was devoid of emotional conflict is belied by his hymn, "Lead, Kindly Light."

A. B. MARTINI  
PORTLAND, OREGON

### THE RAPID REVOLUTION

» It is somewhat difficult to write for a monthly magazine about a revolution which is still in progress. I would like to bring my article on Egypt ["The Middle-Class Revolution," November,

1952] up to date on one small point. I mentioned Colonel Rashid Mehannah, one of the three members of the regency council, as being next in succession to Nagib. Following a dispute, however, Colonel Mehannah has been compelled suddenly to resign and therefore is no longer in the line of succession.

MARK ALEXANDER  
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

#### MR. SCHLESINGER VS. MR. BURNHAM

» The issue of *THE AMERICAN MERCURY* containing James Burnham's article, "The Case Against Adlai Stevenson" [October, 1952], has just come to my attention.

The whole article is filled with distortions and misrepresentations; but I am concerned here only with those which refer to me.

His suggestion that I am or ever have been pro-Soviet or pro-Communist is a lie — and I am sure that Mr. Burnham knows it. I am astonished that he should have forgotten the favorable review I wrote some years ago of his anti-Communist book *The Struggle Against the World*. This was written at a time when it was still unpopular to take an anti-Communist position; and Mr. Burnham was grateful enough to me then for it.

His suggestion that I have ever been in any way associated with the Institute of Pacific Relations is a lie.

His suggestion that I was ever a defender of Alger Hiss is a lie. Whittaker Chambers himself first told me the Hiss story in the summer of 1946; and I have never had doubts about Hiss' probable guilt since.

His suggestion that William Remington was or is my "friend" is a lie. I have never seen him, talked to him or had any communication with him in my life.

I am not even, as Mr. Burnham falsely states, married to the sister of John K. Fairbank. My wife has three sisters, and I assume no responsibility for the politics of any of their husbands. But I certainly do not believe that Fairbank is a Communist.

ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER, JR.  
EXECUTIVE MANSION  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

#### MR. BURNHAM REPLIES

» I really can't figure what Professor Schlesinger is shouting about. My article in no way whatsoever connected him with Alger Hiss. He must have confused himself with his candidate. I did not state or imply that he was pro-Soviet, pro-Communist, or associated with the Institute of Pacific Relations. As for what my words may have "suggested" to Professor Schlesinger, he will have to settle that with his own psyche.

I am sorry about having lied in calling Mrs. Schlesinger a sister (instead of sister-in-law) of John K. Fairbank. On this point I made a full confession which was carried in your November issue as an editorial correction.

As for Fairbank and Remington, they have been variously called, with some specification of detail, Communist, pro-Communist, fellow-traveling and front-joining. It is my understanding that Professor Schlesinger has expressed his disbelief in the charges

against these men and his confidence in their political integrity, as he has — in no uncertain terms — denounced those, like Senator McCarran, who have inquired into the charges. He is certainly within his rights to do so, and I presume that I am within mine when I therefore question his political judgment. If my understanding on this matter is wrong, I should rejoice to correct what I have written. Nothing in this present letter from Professor Schlesinger indicates that I am wrong.

And while we are on the topic of guilt by association, I gather from news reports (which also, of course, may be lies) that during the campaign Schlesinger served on a "team" (as the phrase goes) which included among its active members Archibald MacLeish, Robert E. Sherwood and Claude Pepper. Would he regard it as "sheer McCarthyism" if an anti-Communist eyebrow were raised at that troika?

JAMES BURNHAM  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

### **A TRANSITORY STAGE?**

» I think that with Peter Schmid you have added another observant contributor to your growing list of sane and important writers. His "Letter from

Peru" [October, 1952], as well as his contribution on Colombia ["Letter from Colombia," September, 1952], supply a maximum of information with a minimum of the feeling that one is "being informed." Particularly, his notion that Peru is now achieving an evolution at the hands of a military "dictator" who somehow resembles Nagib in Egypt in his fight against corruption, for a balanced budget, for better economic conditions, seems to me of real importance. It points to a development which perhaps marks the transitory stage in the effort of Latin America as well as Near Eastern countries to shed their troubled past for a democratic way of life. Turkey's evolution is perhaps the first example of this trend.

GEORGE P. SHELDON,  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

### **NO BEDMATE HE**

» McCarthy, you say ["In the Mercury's Opinion," October, 1952], "may be a rather rambunctious bedmate." "But," you ask, "is he less desirable than Marcantonio?"

Would it be all right with you if I just sleep on the floor?

DR. ROBERT W. ROGERS  
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

## **Do You Know —**

*— that, according to the AFL's Free Trade Union Committee, the Chinese Communist regime has executed or caused the death of more than 14 million people in the last five years, including more than 500 United States prisoners of war captured in Korea?*

R. LA PLACA  
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

*— that today, seven years after World War II, more than a million German, Italian, Japanese, and other prisoners of war, as well as thousands of civilians deported to the Soviet Union, are still missing?*

LEE J. MACINTOSH  
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY

*— that although the Constitution of Guatemala specifically prohibits the existence of any political party with foreign or international connections, the Communist Party there publishes an official daily newspaper, and is running a slate of official candidates for Congress in the current elections?*

JUAN GOMEZ BLANCO  
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

*— that with scarcely a voice of protest from Capitol Hill, the Department of State has rigidly maintained official silence on the distribution of \$18 billion thus far allocated for military and economic aid to our Allies? But that throughout the Lend-Lease program of World War II details regarding the Lend-Lease distributions were made public in quarterly reports?*

R. F. WELLS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

*— that the McCarran Act, which goes into effect at the end of this December, contains no provision barring the immigration into the United States of people with records of membership in the Nazi, Fascist, and Falangist parties?*

FRANKLIN H. HARTS  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

*— that more than four thousand British servicemen have been killed in the war against Communist forces in Malaya?*

EUGENE F. BARKER  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

In this space each month the MERCURY will publish what we judge to be the most important *facts* submitted by our readers. These must be facts, not opinions. Elsewhere we publish readers' opinions as well as our own. We invite the submission of such facts and will pay \$5 for each one published. Each submission should carry the notice "Facts" and should be accompanied by an authoritative reference. Unfortunately, we are not able to acknowledge or return submitted material.