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## IN OUR READERS' OPINION.

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### THE KOREAN PROPOSAL

» Senator Bridges "Positive Proposal for Korea" in your November issue is, for the most part, a sensible and easily comprehended article.

He faces reality when he recognizes that the cause of America is at stake, that we are actually in WW-3 now, and that we must continue to fight until the communist legions are disarmed.

He deals too lightly with the roles of Roosevelt, Stilwell, Marshall and the I.P.R. in our loss of prestige in Asia. Their joint actions were responsible for our sorry plight in 1947 and 1950 — and to dismiss the evacuation of S. Korea with a limp statement of not enough troops to be garrisoned there is merely a cover-up for dereliction of duty on the part of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who should have understood the dangers. That was what they were paid for.

Likewise he obscures the basic issue of constitutional abrogation when he excuses Truman for throwing us into a communist war trap on the assumption that Congress might have authorized the conflict anyway!

Even more important than the reviving of a fighting spirit for freedom which will encourage the enslaved masses everywhere, is the critical need for our leaders, in the military as well as in our government, to acknowledge right from wrong and to steadfastly set

their course on the right track. We cannot be strong and set a courageous example for others if we condone treachery in our midst. The only way to remove that treachery is to drive the uncensored spear of full public exposure into those individuals who have sold us short.

A. G. BLAZEY, M.D.  
WASHINGTON, INDIANA

» I have just read a copy of your wonderful magazine for the first time. While browsing through the magazine rack in the corner newsstand last week, I happened upon the AMERICAN MERCURY and was interested in the titles of the articles so bought one.

After reading the November issue from cover to cover I felt that I had a much clearer idea of many things that had been troubling me. I want to thank you for the wonderful, understandable reading matter published in your magazine.

I now feel that I know much more about the many confusing issues facing us today. I especially liked Senator Styles Bridges "Korea — A Positive Proposal" and "The Primacy of Politics."

Sidney Hook's article "What Is Guilt By Association" reflected my own opinions on this moot subject. I am entirely in sympathy with Senator

McCarthy and sincerely believe that he is a man of great patriotism who is trying against great odds to bring to America the realization of what Communism is doing in this country.

RUTH JOHNSTON  
ROME, NEW YORK

### LAMONT DENIAL

» I wish to deny categorically the fantastic statement by Mr. Julian Maxwell in your November, 1952, issue that I led Frederick V. Field into the Communist Party. I do not pretend to know what political organizations Mr. Field belongs to or does not belong to. But I have never advised him or anyone else to join the Communist Party, with which I have always disagreed on many fundamental issues in fields as varying as philosophy, religion, science, history, civil liberties, politics and international relations.

It remains true that I have been a personal friend of Mr. Field since we were at Harvard College together, that I admire his courage and integrity, and that I stand with him against the reckless defamers who today make a lucrative new racket out of slander and witch-hunts.

CORLISS LAMONT  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

### CHAPLIN'S FREEDOM

» This makes me guilty of only three fan letters in my life. First to Saturday Post about a story of Denver; next, to Walter Winchell for no reason at all as I see it now, and this, inspired by William Bradford Huie's "Mr. Chaplin and

the Fifth Freedom" in current *Merc.*

I think I know artistry when I see it. What a job of shrinking this midget mime, who likes to be a target of the big guns, to a mere blow-fly speck on a limburger cheese wrapper!

Like all little souls who are big egotists, Chaplin loves to hear the big guns thunder as much as Drew Pearson likes to be called the biggest liar in America by Presidents, with Truman being more specific and to the (exclamation) point.

We shoot off our pop gun with this conviction. All artistry comes from the artist's soul — he has to have one if he be an artist. This soulless socialist is Poe's jester sticking a match to his king as he wriggles suspended from the ceiling, trying to make his audience think he is Pagliacci in "Limelight" — one of the times he was very funny.

"Draughts of Old Bourbon," served by Mr. Huie, was spiked to our taste — and we always quaff it with an "ah."

G. A. COMPTON  
RANSON, WEST VIRGINIA

» May I suggest, after "Mr. Chaplin and the Fifth Freedom," something entitled "Mr. Huie and the Sixth Freedom"? Freedom from Huie.

That would spare us the tedious humor of a man whose arrogance and hatred of another man is so obvious that any attempt to appear impartial is a joke — but a very sad and lame one.

Do you really think that you can hurt a man whose name and art is endeared to all the human race? Then why, I wonder, do you make yourself foolish trying to do just that?

NORMAN ROSS  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

**CREEPING SOCIALISM**

» Economic determinism may play as small a part in the world Russian communist movement as Mr. Burnham says but the creeping socialism that we have in our colleges and government is a more insidious menace and it seems to the writer that has an economic origin. We have had ever since Plymouth and Jamestown many Brook Farms, Oneidas and Bellamies promoted by minorities but never until the depression of the thirties did collectivism capture the federal government. Is not our will to resist this largely weakened and confused by a subconscious suspicion that there is something impractical about our "capitalism?" If we were to examine the explanation of depressions and poverty offered by Henry George we might acquire a positive faith in free enterprise with which to combat paternalism, controls, etc. Georgists admit the basic imperfection of the kind of so-called free enterprise we have had and insist that just taxation would produce an equality of opportunity which would cut the ground from under the advocates of a planned economy or any partial approach to that fallacious doctrine. At present the "liberals" know what they want. Most "conservatives" are confused.

WILLIS A. SNYDER  
HUDSON, NEW YORK

» "Thank you for sending me the copy of your November issue, which includes Isaac Rosenfeld's article, 'Confessions of a Writing Teacher.'

"As I expected it would be, the article is excellent. I am in wholehearted and unreserved agreement with Pro-

fessor Rosenfeld, whose indictment of writing courses, incidentally, might well serve as an ideal complement to an earlier AMERICAN MERCURY contribution, "Teaching Young America to Write" by L. Ruth Middleton of New York University's English department."

BROTHER CORMAC PHILIP, F.S.C.  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

**POISON APPRECIATED**

» "The November number of your magazine came several days ago, and I have been reading it with interest ever since. I certainly want to compliment you on the fine selection of articles, every one of which was of much interest.

"In particular, I was grateful for the article by James Rorty 'Poison In Every Pot.' This is the best piece that I have yet read on the subject, and I hope that you will have reprints made for distribution so that then people will know what is being put into their food and drinking water.

"If the article is put into pamphlet form I will appreciate your letting me know as I will want to order a supply for distribution."

ANDREW B. MCALLISTER  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

» "In the MERCURY for November I find two articles which I believe should be made available to every thinking American. I refer to the statements by Senator Styles Bridges and Mr. James Burnham.

"These two articles cover the broad field of our international relations with such clarity and insight as to offer — when presented together — an invaluable primer on this all-important subject; or so it seems to me. I earnestly

hope that you will bring these two theses out under one cover."

FRANCIS H. BUFFUM  
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

» "My heartfelt thanks to you for publishing an article, 'Newspapers WITHOUT News,' by Anthony Harrigan who revealed a great truth too many newspaper subscribers seem unaware of. If subscribers would merely cancel subscriptions to papers which fail to give a fair amount of impartial news on the local scene. Subscribers have it in their power to force lousy papers to improve if readers would only use their freedom of choice."

J. WILSON HARRISON  
SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

#### ANTI-HARRIGAN

» I have just finished reading the article, "Newspapers Without News," by Anthony Harrigan, in your November issue. What I am writing to you is not a rebuttal, but I do feel that Mr. Harrigan must have had a terrible argument with the business office just before he sat down to his typewriter.

Mr. Harrigan says, in conclusion, and I presume this is supposed to be the punch in his piece:

"Our press will thrive, newspapers will sell, circulation will rise, when newspapers return to the old policy of reporting news with intelligence and courage. Not dress patterns but politics is the subject matter of the press. In sound reporting and strong editorials are the praise and the profits."

Mr. Harrigan's papers must have been having a different experience than most others, if he feels that newspapers are not selling and making money at present. Circulation gains have been regular and healthy for some years and in spite of newsprint shortage and increasing competition.

I do agree thoroughly in the argument that sound reporting and strong editorials are the essence of the newspaper. Or should be. And I believe that a great many papers, despite Mr. Harrigan's indignation, are providing just that. They also carry dress patterns and gossip. There is no reason why a decent balance between the pap and the profound cannot be attained and maintained.

For we must persuade people to buy our papers with pap, else we cannot pay for the profound. I do not believe Mr. Harrigan, after he gets over his mad with the business office, will contend that it would be easy to sell newspapers to the general public without a few comics, some dress patterns and a line or two about who's kicking up what in high places. And perhaps that is as it should be. People deserve to be entertained as well as instructed by the daily press. If they tend to ignore the profound, that is too bad. But perhaps if we keep after them long enough they will respond.

I believe the press is entitled to an answer in your columns.

J. S. C. BUTZ  
JACKSONVILLE 1, FLORIDA

#### PRO-HARRIGAN

» "Newspapers Without News" by Anthony Harrigan is a most valuable

and timely criticism. If anything, it is too conservative — too mild. Much more could and should have been said. Why not publish the whole truth about so-called newspapers?

IRA D. CARDIFF  
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

» My attention has been called to a statement made on page 10 of the October issue of your magazine, which you attribute to the book *From Major Jordan's Diaries*, concerning equipment given to Soviet Russia for the printing of currency.

The statement which says that the Treasury Department gave "our engraved plates" to Soviet Russia and Russia printed with U. S. equipment billions of dollars in currency which the United States has been forced to redeem would seem to imply to the reader that plates for the printing of United States currency were given to Russia. This is totally incorrect. The plates for the printing of United States currency have never been given to Russia nor to any other foreign country.

What probably gives rise to statements similar to that published in your magazine, which apparently is not a quotation from Major Jordan's book, is the fact that photographic glass negatives and positives for making printing plates were made available to the Soviet government by the United States for the printing of Allied Military Marks used by the Allied powers in Europe. It should be noted that the Military Marks produced by the United States and by the Soviet Union were issued by occupation au-

thorities acting as the authorized Government of Germany. There was never any obligation on the part of the United States, or any other Allied government, to redeem this currency and no redemption has been made by the United States. Moreover, as the result of the introduction of a new form of currency in both the Eastern and Western Zones of Germany, the Military Marks are no longer legal tender within Germany and, therefore, have no present value.

During the invasion and the early days of the occupation of Germany authorized personnel of the United States Armed Forces were permitted to convert into dollars, for remittance to the United States, the Military Marks which they received as pay and allowance. The practice of converting these Marks for personnel was, however, discontinued in September, 1946.

E. H. FOLLY  
UNDER SECRETARY OF  
THE TREASURY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



# Draughts of Old Bourbon

JAMES MONROE MADISON

## For a SECOND WHISKY REBELLION

FOR the sake of both its present and its future, what this country needs is a rebellion. A real knock-down, drag-out, oath-hurling, skull-cracking rebellion. I'm not advocating such a rebellion, you understand: a man can get thrown into the oubliette now for suggesting violence toward the government of the United States. On advice of counsel I'm only *stating the need* for rebellion, not actually advocating it. But Americans are getting too tired, too old, too complacent; we need to revive our tradition of violence; we ought to demonstrate that we still can get mad.

The healthiest sort of rebellion always is one against taxes. Producers against the blood suckers. Free men against the dad-burned bureaucrats. Patriots against the revenuers. The Boston Tea Party.

The Virginia revolt against the Stamp Act. There is something fine and inspiring about a man grabbing his shillelagh and rushing out and beating hell out of a tax collector. This nation was born of such spirit.

And the best tax rebellions are those against whisky taxes. Whenever a free man no longer gets mad over a new whisky tax, he's losing his spirit; and whenever a free people no longer rebel against a new whisky tax, they are about ready for the Doo-chay and history's dustheap.

Scotland was important as long as Scotchmen were belligerent and made and drank Scotch whisky. Men won't suffer slavery — when they can sniff smoke from hickory logs burning under a pot-still on a Spring morning. But Scotchmen lost their souls whenever they let Englishmen tax their whisky to the point where