

# THE BOOK SHELF

## The Lady Has a Message . . .

By Richard McLaughlin

ATLAS SHRUGGED. By Ayn Rand. Random House, New York. 1168 pp. \$6.95.

A POLEMIC against these unhappy times of shrinking personal liberty, bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo and collectivist socio-political theory, to say nothing of the menace of the welfare state, is very much needed; in fact, it has been long overdue. Yet it rather staggers one to find one's prayer answered in the form of such a leviathan as "Atlas Shrugged," a novel which—there is no getting away from it—often shouts at the top of its lungs.

Still, it might not be heard otherwise. And it is paramount that we listen to what Miss Rand has to say; for she is against government controls, against the evil negating forces which slow up the "world's motor" (which is the ego, or, as Miss Rand prefers to say, the "And I mean it" in the brain of every voluntarily productive and creative individual). She believes that the mind is the only agent of escape from an age of conformity. Indeed, she is convinced that reason is an effective agent even against the "hidden persuaders." This last bit of intelligence should win her many readers who might otherwise

have been discouraged by her book's stupendous length.

Miss Rand already endeavored to explain some of her dissatisfaction with the irrationality of these times in "The Fountainhead," a best-seller of a decade ago. In the present work she is answering the many questions her readers asked pertaining to the wider application of her ideas expounded in that earlier volume. Here again she reveals that her forte is melodrama. This time her flair for inventive incident and exciting, suspenseful plot enables her to dress up her political parable in the guise of science fiction. But for those who would seek deeper meanings, other levels, Miss Rand has provided for them too. Her Horatio Alger-Superman tale of derring-do can be read as a philosophical whodunit, or as a somewhat diffuse dialogue on Aristotelian logic and ethics. Best of all, it can be taken as a fervent testament of the author's personal philosophy. (Or should it be philosophies?).

Miss Rand refers to her writing as "romantic realism." By this I gather she means that her characters are drawn larger than life but move in a modern realistic setting. It is just another way of saying her people are allegorical figures; they serve as spokesmen, for and against, her major social

and moral arguments. Unfortunately, they have about as much animation or dimension as figures in a Byzantine mosaic.

In line with science fiction, Miss Rand takes the reader into the not too implausible future—an America of tomorrow in which humanity is divided into two classes, the looters and the non-looters. The looters, as to be expected, are the political theorists and modern politicians whose doctrine is “the greatest good for the greatest number” at the price of individual freedom. Apparently asking herself what would happen if the tables were turned, if the most creative and productive were to go on strike, the author has come up with a provocative answer.

Her story is about a man who set out to stop the motor of the world—and succeeded. John Galt, inventor, visionary and self-appointed messiah, invents a new motor in which static electricity can be transformed into cheap and abundant power. However, he decides not to disclose the nature of his secret until he deems mankind ready for it. Meanwhile he carries on a crusade, urging all other creative individuals around him to lay down their tools—to stop using their brains for society. He encounters resistance from those who need him most; among these are an attractive woman executive, Dagny Taggart, who runs the Taggart Transcontinental Railroad, Hank Rearden, a steel man who has developed a new alloy which is tougher and lighter than steel, and Francisco d’Anconia, dissolute playboy and copper king, who blows up “all the copper mines in the world.” But even-

tually John Galt gets his message across and the creative brains go underground. With the “looters” left in control everything soon collapses—industries, transportation systems, etc. The looters are forced to abdicate and the non-looters are left free to restore the United States Constitution. A single clause is added to the Fifth Amendment: “Congress shall pass no law abridging the freedom of production and trade.” The fade-out shows John Galt with his hand raised, tracing in space “the sign of the dollar.”

Miss Rand’s didactic novel perhaps suffers most from long-windedness. Some of the lengthier speeches should have been cut. The sixty pages, near the back of the book, during which John Galt delivers a harangue against the sundry foes of “reason”—the Omnipotent God, “Original Sin,” mysticism, and the bugaboos of the unconscious, read more like an exercise in nihilism than a defense of causality. This tirade should have been dispensed with altogether. Miss Rand already established through the action of her tale that our “inalienable rights” are in jeopardy. Moreover, what she has let John Galt overlook is that we can follow reason within the limits of reason, but we must not try to make a faith out of reason itself. It shouldn’t, therefore, surprise this reviewer if Miss Rand were accused by some readers of veering closer to Nietzsche than to Aristotle, with whom she says she has few disagreements.

Since she is first and foremost a skillful polemicist, it may be asking too much to expect Miss Rand to have a literary style. As a novelist she reveals a mundane, rather than

Olympian view of life. True, Pascal called man "a thinking reed," but he also said, "ordinary men place the good in fortune and external goods"; and Miss Rand is concerned here with ordinary men, struggling to keep their place in the sun against unjust political and economic mauraunders.

If "Atlas Shrugged" is no literary

giant, neither was "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which did more to stir a nation to action than all the abolitionists ranting in a body. Harriet Beecher Stowe was a lady of purpose and achieved concrete results from her pamphleteering. Miss Rand is no less strong-minded and certainly no less dedicated to her cause.

## GLAMORIZING DYLAN THOMAS

### Part I

DYLAN THOMAS IN AMERICA. By John Malcolm Brinnin. Compass Books, The Viking Press, New York. 304 pp. \$1.45.

DYLAN THOMAS was a coterie poet—perhaps the most extraordinary of our times. His place in literature remains to be evaluated. He wrote in a curious fractured English, full of the imagery and pixiness of his native Wales. Startling flashes of sheer liveliness break out excitedly in the long stretches of his uneven verse. There was greatness and there was tedium in the man.

He is not an easy poet to read. His rhyming is irregular—in one of his poems, 46 lines intervene between the rhymed words. His rhythms were tortured: his subjects obscure. And yet he attracted to himself the most enthusiastic claque of idolators of any contemporary poet. Dead four years, he has already become a romantic legend.

When we look for the sources of his strange *reclame*, they are easy to

find. First, Dylan was on the "right" side ideologically. Without being an avowed communist, he identified himself with all the causes which are dear to the left intellectual. He journeyed to Prague on a Soviet government grant to attend a writers' "peace" congress. All the log-rollers of the left and the near-left hailed him as their own.

Beyond that he was a character. How much deliberate posing and how much genuine eccentricity was behind his strange performance in America during the years 1950-53 will remain a moot question. Certainly he was an alcoholic in an advanced stage—he died of alcoholism. He was also a man desperately unhappy in his married life. His wife, if we are to believe Mr. Brinnin, was a shrew and a schizoid. He found solace in self-ruination, and in alcoholic and sexual excess. At the end this had become a compulsive substitute for creative work.

Like so many other disorganized personalities, Thomas had a rare gift for friendship. Friends and hangers-on clustered around him, and supplied

an entourage in his neurotic rounds of the taverns and the literary parties of New York. Most loyal of these was John Malcolm Brinnin, himself a poet and Thomas's manager on his four reading tours of the United States.

Brinnin has now written the story of those final Thomas years in a book which is compellingly interesting. It is the story of human disintegration: it is also the story of the boozy, back-biting literary society of contemporary New York into which the Welsh bard was plunged. It is a portrait gallery of egghead America. Thomas jarred upon this society but he fascinated it as a new sort of primitive.

Few readers who care for writers and writing can put down this moving book until they have read it from cover to cover. It is not the story of Thomas the poet, but of Thomas, the doomed and tortured human being. As such it will be read long after his uneven verse has been dropped from anthologies.—HAROLD LORD VARNEY

## Part II

LEFTOVER LIFE TO KILL. By Caitlin Thomas. Atlantic-Little, Brown. 262 pp. \$4.50.

IF YOU are a genius it is permissible to share the agonies and torments of your mind. If you are not, you do the world a favor by suffering in silence. I for one have tremendous personal sympathy with Caitlin Thomas as a woman, but a book is not a confessional and in this case one cannot help but feel it should never have been written. Dylanesque in feeling, it is not Dylan and only he could have

gotten away with the literary confusions it manifests. The book is simply not readable. It charges back and forth like an angry bull—roaring, moaning, begging, agonizing—but all in a private, incommunicable hell.

The furor over Thomas is more than understandable. An exciting poet to start with, his personality was electric. During the short months he spent in the United States he made devoted friends and fierce enemies. His scathing comments at college campuses, in society homes and at parties given in his honor all contributed to the Dylan Thomas legend. A legend filled with controversy and as yet not complete.

The Dylan Thomas revival is going full force in America now. At the present time in New York two shows are being devoted to him. *Under Milk Wood*, a play for voices that was written for the BBC shortly before he died, and *A Boy Growing Up*, an entertainment composed of some of his stories, read by Emlyn Williams. Add to this the release of his widow's book and the volume by Brinnin, *Dylan Thomas in America*, and you have a somewhat impressive compendium on Dylan Thomas. It is unfortunate that what might have been the most significant contribution is in actuality the weakest. Caitlin Thomas has told us less about Dylan than about herself. Although she may be a fascinating woman in her own right, the book would have been far more successful if she had not strayed from her subject. Garbled, violent, shattering—her confessions are frightening, sometimes illuminating, but always too personal.

If you are interested in the auto-

biography of Caitlin Thomas, wife of Dylan Thomas, you may enjoy the book.—NINA N. KANN

## Mental Health—Plaything for Politicians

By Edward Hunter

MENTAL ROBOTS. By Lewis A. Alesen. Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho. 1957. 107 pp. \$1.50.

NOTHING is more important than mental health, with a small "m" and a small "h." Nothing can be more dangerous and sinister than Mental Health with a capital "M" and a capital "H," that makes a slogan out of it, around which crackpots and intriguers can dance together as around a Maypole. That is what Dr. Lewis A. Alesen is writing about in his "Mental Robots." He has professional qualifications that give particular point to his alarm.

He charges that certain elements wish to use our mental health problems as a screen behind which to exercise political controls. Communist infiltration into the most innocent of movements has been so exhaustively proven that such an accusation by an informed source warrants serious attention. Those who are worried about the mental crackups caused by the strains of our highly mechanized civilization should be the first to guard against mistaken or subversive exploitation of that situation.

Mental Health (in capital letters) is made-to-order for those who have

made a cult out of conformism and the committee (little group) system, contrary to American needs and tradition. A person nowadays who doesn't conform is told he is anti-social and should go to a psychiatrist to be cured. That is a totalitarian tactic. That, too, is the outcome of the salesman's the-customer-is-always-right approach, carried over into ordinary life, and makes us callous to evil and evade responsibility. Of course the Reds make use of that vulnerability. But it is our job to prevent it, so that no captured young American, as happened in Korea, ever again willingly parrots Red lies over the radio because that's the environment in which he finds himself, and he has been brought up to feel that being "anti-social" is the worst of all crimes, worse than deceit or treason.

Dr. Alesen, in his alarm, which has a sound basis, brings in a number of other matters such as fluoridation and the income tax. Our safeguard is fundamentally the way we bring up our youth. A plotter can use semantics to twist anything. Only by teaching a specific way of life can we give our people the judgment to spot conniving and the courage to fight it, even if it "doesn't pay." That is where we have been amiss in our "practical" lives.

Dr. Alesen has provided evidence that proponents of a collective philosophy have seen in mental health a channel through which slyly to put across "re-education" and incarceration—brainwashing. The opportunity to railroad someone to a mental institution because he or she is a political opponent is too big a temptation for us not to plug up any possible

recourse to it. Dr. Alesen's findings indicate that we have not sufficiently done so. That does not mean to wash our hands of the problem of mental stability, but to rid it of extraneous issues that would create more, not less crackpots.

Why this dainty public relations label, Mental Health, anyway? Each such new term tends to over-simplify a serious matter, and make it easier to exploit for deceitful ends. Let's stick to the English language as much as we can without headline doctoring of it.

The logical procedure would be to leave this problem to the doctors, only unfortunately there has been important communist infiltration in the medical fields, so that the ordinary citizen has no alternative but to inform himself on the basic issues involved, and to pass judgment according to his convictions.

If he hasn't any convictions, then we are in a sorry way! That would appear to be the first of our considerations.

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## Slanted for Hollywood

THE FLOWER DRUM SONG by C. Y. Lee. Farrar, Strauss & Cudahy, New York. 244 pp. \$3.50.

THIS first novel by C. Y. Lee, was first written as a play some ten years ago at Yale University. The locale was Hunan, the author's native province in Central China. Mr. Lee, city editor of *Young China*, a Chinese language newspaper in San Francisco, now has expanded it into a novel,

added a handful of nebulous characters, shifted the scene to the western shores and here you have a story of what is supposed to be life in San Francisco's Chinatown today.

The principal characters are Old Master Wang, an elderly scholar and a refugee from China, his two sons, Wang Ta—Number One Son, Wang San—Number Three Son (what's happened to Number Two we never know) and Madame Tang, the old man's westernized sister-in-law and a busybody. Indomitable and proud, Old Master Wang is a man of habits. He dislikes western food, western clothes and western furnishings. He distrusts western medicine and western banks. Money, in his opinion, was like one's wife; he just couldn't let a stranger touch it. He smokes his water-pipe, drinks his endless cups of fragrant Chinese tea and ginseng soup, a tonic, reads the four leading Chinese newspapers (not for their news coverage but for their political dissent), and enjoys his daily walk on Grant Avenue, main street of San Francisco's Chinatown.

But his two sons, after four years in California, have adopted many American ways. Thirteen year old Wang San acts like a cowboy and talks like the characters in a Mickey Spillane movie. And when 28-year-old Wang Ta fails to find suitable employment, he works as a dishwasher at Fisherman's Wharf, a sign of his economic independence.

Wang Ta's problem is love. There is Linda Tung, a sexy Chinese dame who acts like the heroine of a dime novel. Next comes Helen Chao, a 41-year-old seamstress whose face is pockmarked. But Helen is an excel-

lent cook and one night succeeds in seducing Wang Ta with the aid of tiger-bone wine. Then comes May Li, the 16-year-old daughter of a cook from Peking who could sing the Flower Drum Song. Once again love is in bloom.

Such is the plot of the novel. To keep this flimsy tale going, the author throws in some gun-play—in place of tong war no doubt—a suicide, and some old-fashioned match-making which almost turns the story into a farce.

Yet despite its preposterous cast of characters and the melodramatic over-tone toward the end of the book, Old Master Wang emerges as something real and warmly human. A Chinatown editor, Mr. Lee has every regard for the popular taste and he writes with no omission of slang and sex in an impassionate narrative style. Mr. Lee had beaten the drum, but where is the flower song?—CHEN MEI

THERE GOES THE MIDDLE EAST. By Alfred M. Lilienthal. The Devin-Adair Company, New York, 1957. 300 pp., \$4.00.

MR. LILIENTHAL'S book "There Goes The Middle East" gives the clearest picture we have had to date of the shillyshallying done by the United States Government on the Middle Eastern policy. Much of this policy, according to the book, was influenced and promoted by the Zionist organizations in this country. America's concern for her vast oil holdings and her interest in the wel-

fare of the Arab people seem to have been pushed aside in favor of the interests of Israel. Lilienthal describes a recent senatorial election in this country:

"Attorney General Javits and Mayor Wagner each tried to outbid the other as to who would do more for Israel; they conducted their campaign more as if they were candidates for the Israeli Knesset than for the United States Senate."

Mr. Lilienthal discusses the threat of Russia's influence in the Arab World and reveals that the Israeli, too, may come under that influence because of their active Communist party and their little publicized, but verified, arms deal with Czechoslovakia in 1948. In speaking of the Egyptian arms deal with the Communists, he gives the facts about the hesitation of the United States Government and Egypt's final acceptance of the Red offer.

One of the most enlightening chapters concerns the slanting of information from the Arab world in our daily papers. The author says Zionist pressure on our press, radio and television has proved to be quite successful in its bid for sympathy.

The book gives many reasons for the turn of Egypt and other Arab countries to the Russians. It discusses the Aswan Dam offer and its subsequent withdrawal. The problem of the Arab refugees, uppermost in the minds of the Arabs, is also given as a cause of Red influence.

Mr. Lilienthal's extensive coverage of one of the most explosive situations of modern day does a great service for the American people and gives us much to consider. —M. B.

# THE COLLEGE FORUM

*Where on earth is, what has happened to, the so-called rebelliousness of youth, especially in our colleges? On the whole, throughout the classrooms of a thousand American campuses, the college youth of today are willing to accept almost without question, abide by, and militantly support, the most deadly intellectual conformity that has ever been imposed on similar numbers of men and women of similar intelligence and opportunity. And the fact that the stale blanket of collectivist doctrine is conspicuously labeled "revolutionary," while it is being spread blindingly over their minds, is no justification for their meek acquiescence. The dwellers in our colleges and universities for centuries past have always been, or have been supposed to be, independent, curious, skeptical, courageous seekers after truth; not indifferent mental softies, herded like a bunch of sheep into a corral of conformity just by the trick of putting a false sign on the gate.—ROBERT H. WELCH, JR., Boston*

As our readers know the AMERICAN MERCURY is much concerned with the future of the United States, a future which rests upon the youth of today and tomorrow. Consequently the

Mercury has followed the activities of students and faculties at colleges all over America with keen interest.

At the recent National Student Association Convention at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Buell Gallagher the President of the City College of New York, made some very interesting comments on the activities of students at his college: "Undergraduates today," President Gallagher said, "are just about what they were when I entered college in 1921. . . . Books and monographs were written about us, characterizing us as selfish, conceited, conforming lemmings. . . . Yet there were idealists among us. Idealists found themselves caught up in a series of unpopular causes. They were pacifists who took the Oxford oath never again to fight for King and Country or who joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation. . . . The little band of idealists, moved by compassion or indignation or intellectual insight, developed a social conscience. They refused to conform, and generally got into trouble. . . . Many were bitter, most were disillusioned. Cynicism grew. . . . With the retreat of the bold and the idealistic from the social scene a vacuum was left. Into that vacuum moved a new group. They seemed to wear the same bright face of idealism, used the same clichés and slogans, declared that they espoused the same objectives. But behind that façade there

was new mettle. This new breed of rebels were the harbingers of that 'New Class' about which Milovan Djilas has just written. They are not concerned first and foremost with the basic ethical questions, with matters of human dignity and human rights and human welfare; they *use* these altruistic concerns only as instruments for manipulating social forces in order to seize power for themselves. If successful, they emerge in control of a movement; if unsuccessful, in taking over, they try to wreck the movement.

". . . And usually the idealist didn't know what was happening to him. He looked on in bewilderment, unable to accept the doctrine that the end justifies the means, unready to organize his counteroffensive, clinging stubbornly to the democratic faith and due process. . . . Many of the idealists retreated from the scene of struggle . . . some of them sold out their former ideals and became themselves disciples of the gospel ideologies of power, giving their allegiance to the newly arrived forces of world subversion.

". . . Let me now move the discussion even closer to the personal and the specific. Let's turn to City College of New York. City College is much like any other American institution of higher education, as far as the analyses of tonight are concerned. Here, too, there is constant danger that the idealists will retreat and leave a power vacuum to be occupied by the cynics—or that they will innocently be used by the manipulators—and that the great masses of the student body and faculty will refuse to get involved at all.

"It is inherent in the nature of idealism that there are frequent disagreements among idealists as to what is wise policy and sound procedure. The cynics are quick to take advantage of this situation. Thus it came about last spring at City College that the idealists by a very narrow margin succeeded in averting a commitment to send official delegates from one of our four student governments to the Moscow Youth Festival. Fortunately, it was too soon after November in Hungary for the cynics to win enough idealists to an innocent support of their efforts to make City College a tail for the Communist's propaganda kite. As one member of the college, I had argued that competent and objective individuals ought to travel in Russia and other countries, and (indeed) had assisted one City College person in making such a trip this summer. I had also argued that the Moscow Youth Festival was not a proper object for *official* delegation support. Against this background, the issue of whether to send an accredited delegate to the Moscow Festival had to be decided; when the chips were down, not enough idealists were taken in by the cynics. So only one self-appointed 'delegate' went to Moscow as the world's press camera clicked. . . ."

The student from City College was the one in Moscow who, before the cameras of the world, dramatically "symbolized" an American homage to the men of the Kremlin—by dipping the American flag he carried in salute and homage to Khrushchev!

"The American flag *is to be dipped to no one*, not even the President of the United States, precisely because

it is the symbol of *our national sovereignty*, and in a democracy this means *the sovereignty of the people*, yours and mine.

"It is an important Communist victory when an American dips the symbol of our national sovereignty to a Soviet dictator. While such symbolism may seem to be merely "poor taste" to some College undergraduates it is a symbol of vast political and photographic importance to the less sophisticated peoples of Russia, Asia and Africa. . . ."

"As an American (and CCNY student) Mr. Rosen was free to attend the Soviet-sponsored festival. I made that clear last Spring. But let no one pretend that, in the minds of millions of newspaper readers, he was doing anything except *supporting* the Soviet propaganda effort when he dipped the American flag in Moscow. . . ."

The "liberals" at CCNY represent an insignificant minority of the students, we are told. We can only hope, therefore, that the majority of CCNY undergraduates will *choose* to have their representatives administer the student press, and student government, in the very near future—instead of leaving undergraduate fortunes, or misfortunes to the shrivelling minority.—Ed.

Sir: As a student at the College of William and Mary—and as a member of its Debating Team and of the World News Staff of the *Flat Hat* (school newspaper)—I believe that conservatives, as opposed to liberals, represent the vast majority of our undergraduates.

The idea that campus political

thought is dominated by "liberals" and by groups we consider to be working against the best interests of our country is, I think, a mistaken idea. It is our aim as conservatives to preserve the traditions and the heritage of our fathers under the free and sovereign government of the United States. We love our country, we thrill in taking part in its activities and making it an important part of our lives. Therein, in the enjoyment and contentment we find in our inherited society, lies perhaps our seeming weakness—but, in an even greater sense, our innate strength.

We see no immediate need for "leadership"—for the kind of back-room, midnight organizing, which "liberals" have characterized as their own. We have not yet learned that defense is as crucial as offense—that we must exert as much of an effort in defense of what we believe in as the "liberals" do in attempting to plan its destruction.

Political activity on the traditionally American campus—as opposed to the big-city campus which involves the many foreign elements and alien philosophies of Europe—is, here, practically non-existent. These campuses are manned largely by conservatives, but no urgent need for standing up and "being counted" exists.

It is my belief that the overwhelming majority of students in other colleges and universities are conservative. But they are not vocal and have not attempted to create any intercollegiate, national leadership, which should rightfully be theirs, and not that assumed by delegates of Brooklyn College or the College of the City of New York.

Ours, here, is a mature political philosophy born of experience and tradition, although it is based on nothing but our great belief in America and in the American dream.

Mark Twain once said that it was "differences in opinion that make for good horse races." We're ready for the race and we're confident that Americanism will win on most campuses as it will in every sphere of our society.

The COLLEGE FORUM is a helpful and worthwhile service—more power to it and to its future contributors.

—ALLAN C. BROWNFIELD

College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Virginia

We, with a more national view

than correspondent Brownfield of William & Mary College, think it very unfortunate that conservative undergraduates choose to allow the so-called "Liberals" to assume positions of power in student-body organizations, both within individual colleges and in intercollegiate forums and delegations. More "Conservative" patriots should plunge into the now muddied waters of campus and intercampus activities. Do not bemoan what "Liberals" are doing; the thing to do is to get busy with our patriotic group and push socialist-brainwashed minorities to the sidelines.—ED.



### *Thomas Jefferson on the Supreme Court*

In 1821

"The judiciary perversions of the Constitution will forever be protected under the pretext of errors of judgment, which by principle are exempt from punishment. Impeachment therefore is a bugbear which they fear not at all. . . . It is a misnomer to call a government republican, in which a branch of the supreme power is independent of the Nation."

In 1822

"Let the future appointments of judges be for 4 or 6 years, and renewable by the President and Senate. This will bring their conduct, at regular periods, under revisions and probation, and may keep them in equipoise between the general and special governments.

"We have erred in this point, by copying England, where certainly it is a good thing to have the judges independent of the King. But we have omitted to copy their caution also, which makes a judge removable on the address of both legislative Houses. That there should be public functionaries independent of the Nation, whatever may be their demerit, is a solecism in a republic, of the first order of absurdity and inconsistency."

# THE OPEN FORUM

*Letters from readers on any subject are welcome—the more independent in thought and expression, the better. The editors hope to acknowledge all of them, either in these columns or by correspondence. The right is reserved to abridge. Please use a typewriter!*

Here are the 10 great liabilities of our generation, all allowed by our Congressmen and Senators of the past: (1) Recognition of Red Russia by Roosevelt 1933; (2) Abandonment of Gold Standard 1934; (3) Laws giving undue powers to unions 1935; (4) Promoted into Second European war—1941; (5) Huge unnecessary spending for all purposes 1933-1957; (6) Deliberate failure to pay off public debt 1946-1957; (7) Consequent inflation from spending policies 1948-1957; (8) Socialist laws 1933-1957; (9) Pushed into United Nations 1946-1957; (10) Destruction of Federal State System 1933-1957.

Any thinking American must realize that all these evil steps have not been made by chance or error.

J. S. KIMMEL, SR.  
Davenport, Iowa

*Sir:* I am very little concerned about the "Galloping-Jenny" that Russia galloped around the world in outer space—but I am more concerned about our winning the first trip to the moon. I am hoping to make reservations on the first *one way* trip to the moon for some of our taxing Bureaucrats—who are looking for more things to tax. I hope that they will take Senator Wayne Morse with them as a Mascot—in order to make

room in Washington, D. C., for one of Oregon's real statesmen.

I am hoping to make reservation for all of our Supreme Court Justices on the second *one way* trip to the moon.

F. C. OUTLAND  
Chinese Camp, Cal.

*Sir:* I read and enjoy the AMERICAN MERCURY very much and most of the time I agree completely with your opinions, but why do you all insist that a conservative must be religious? Isn't that being a bit narrow-minded? What has a person's religious beliefs to do with his politics?

I try to think with informed intelligence and for that reason I am a conservative *and* an atheist. Common sense, history and science tell me that conservative politics is the best and also that there is no god.

It is utterly amazing to me that people as intelligent as you of the Mercury should be the same superstitious worshippers of myths as were your cave dwelling ancestors. Most conservatives seem to have a mental block when it comes to seeing the truth about religion.

WILLIAM E. RENEAU  
Shreveport, Louisiana

Would any of our readers like

to reply to William Reneau? He needs both patriotic and Christian help. — ED.

*Sir:* As a regular subscriber to your wonderfully enlightening magazine, I am coming to you for some information for myself and also friends of mine.

Your September issue carried a feature article about Harvard—I only wish that every man, woman and child in the United States could read it.

I forwarded my copy on to my daughter in Rock Island, Illinois. And have told many others about it. They have been trying to buy that September issue of AMERICAN MERCURY for a month—at drugstores, newsstands, etc., but always the reply is the same. They do not have it, have not yet received it, but cannot explain why.

Just recently we are unable to get Fulton Lewis' broadcasts in Milwaukee. I cannot understand it. All the leftwing commentators are going full blast.

Has the White House "Palace Guard" boycotted both you and Fulton Lewis, Jr., due to the fact that you both are telling the truth and awakening the people?

Are we to be like Russia, and only hear and read what the dictators say we should? It certainly looks that way. The people in Wisconsin revolted against these very tactics when they either sat at home, or voted for a Democrat in pure disgust at the Modern Republicans. It was the only way we could slap Ike for the way he treated our fine Senator, Joe McCa-

thy. And we sure did!! That explains our election!

If you have an extra September issue available, please send it to me and I'll remit promptly.

(MRS.) PETER STEIN  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

We take pleasure in sending you our September and October Constitution-honoring issues but with our compliments. — ED.

*Dear Mr. Maguire:* The Mercury certainly has been a source of much help to the South since all the dreary business began three years ago, and we are indebted to you. I have seen the article, "Why Pick on Dixie?" here and there, and applaud you for it.

JAMES J. KILPATRICK, EDITOR  
The Richmond News Leader  
Richmond, Virginia

*Sir:* We are being bombarded continually over the air for money to pay for a Radio Free Europe. Isn't it about time we gave our money for a Radio Free America? The U.S. air is filled with the inane mouthings of Russia's Khrushchev while the speeches we would like and should hear, like MacArthur's inspirational speech to his stockholders, and Senator Jenner's brilliant speech on the Supreme Court, or Senator Russell's straight thinking speech on civil rights, are ignored.

As a result of this carefully manipulated radio and television coverage, aided by left-wing newspapers, Americans are allowing fuzzy minded One World busybodies—who do not

stay in the U.S. long enough to know what Americans wish or think, and care less—to control our foreign policy, and the president and Congress hear only what radio and television planners think they ought to know and do.

MRS. GRACE BACON  
Orlando, Florida  
and Newtonville, Mass.

*Sir:* Throughout an extensive trip in Europe and in cities where scholars and foreign officials go eagerly to the free libraries established under the State Department by the so-called United States Information Agency (USIA), I can tell you that in none of these periodical rooms could I find a copy of *The AMERICAN MERCURY*—which I consider the magazine which most accurately reflects the real American philosophy. The visual displays of U.S. publications were always flamboyant with our most leftist magazines; only the *Daily (Communist) Worker* was publicly missing from the magazine racks, but available from under the table whenever I asked for it.

Somebody in Washington is buying at tax-payers expense all the magazines that do *not* reflect or interpret our basic beliefs and seeing to it that these publications get priority for brainwashing our overseas allies. Who is mad at you?

RONALD BISHOP  
Baltimore, Maryland

**We have grieved silently that the civil servants of the USIA misadministration of our public relations among foreigners send**

all the radical, minority-opinion and slanted publications of Manhattan overseas, at substantial monthly subsidies to these publishers. And more important, because a monopoly by such U.S. publications of the reading habits of foreign scholars and officials accounts for the fact that they are entirely misinterpreting the real American credo—and our reactions to current and past events. But we take pride in the fact that the *AMERICAN MERCURY* shines forth brightly each month, overseas, in the home-magazines reading rooms of the U.S. Airforce, and can be easily obtained in Airforce PX commissaries—where radical leftists and egghead U.S. publications are notable by their absence. It will be our young friends of the vigilant U.S. Airforce who will have to blast the Kremlin from the face of the civilized earth the moment the politicians and subversives at home have brought us to the brink, again, of war. We'd rather have the U.S. Airforce men and women like us than thousands of USIA incompetents. — Ed.

*Sir:* Mr. Harold Lord Varney performed a valuable service for the cause of a better Harvard in his article in your September issue, "Harvard Betrays its Heritage."

As a Harvard man I should have preferred that he call the article "Harvard Men Betray Their Heritage."

Mr. Varney has researched thoroughly into the tradition of that oldest and, to my mind, greatest uni-

versity in the United States, in order to present a fair picture. This he accomplishes with remarkable success. He underscores the glory of Harvard—represented by the reign of President Lowell. But Mr. Varney also points out what he must—that Harvard, unhappily, seems to have lapsed into a period of “little men.”

The downgrade seems to have begun with the emergence to the presidency of James Bryant Conant, the relativist scientist who just couldn't see his way clear to giving the humanities a break and keeping the Divinity School alive and vital. About the same time, Professor Felix Frankfurter was wrecking havoc by acting as recruiting center for those far leftist students interested in boondoggling jobs in Washington. Then Judge Charles E. Wyzanstein, Jr., came upon the scene on the Board of Overseers and contributed heavily to the leftward march of Harvard. Sad to say, in the thirties and forties Harvard did seem to be acting like a diploma mill for the New Deal's alphabetic agencies. It became in the eyes of many, not unjustifiably, a bureaucrat's habitat.

WILLIAM CUTHBERT BRADY  
Urbana, Ill.

*Sir:* Mr. Warren claims that separate schools are inherently unequal schools and may affect the minds and hearts of the students in ways likely to never be undone (or some such gobbledegook). Senator Kennedy says this is the law of the land. Most other Senators say this is the law of the land. (This is not so. It is a decision on a particular case.) If this is the law of the land, then Mr. Sher-

man Adams should advocate the migration of negroes into his state to avoid “lifelong scars” on the minds of the children of New Hampshire. He should force Mr. Nixon's children to get an “equal” education free from “psychological scars.” And Major Eisenhower's children to live within the law of the land.

PHILIP F. HARTUNG, JR.  
New Shrewsbury, New Jersey

*Dear Sir:* Two informative and very interesting books were published recently. *Iesât Nasser* (The story of the life of Jesus the Nazarene) \$5.00, Published by Meador Publishing Co., Boston, Massachusetts, and *The Ultimate World Order*, .75 Published by Williams Publications, Santa Ana, California.

JOSEPH P. KELLY  
Chicago, Illinois

*Sir:* As a Trustee of Amesbury Public Library, I found that attempts were being made to pipe un-American books into the Amesbury Public Library. There were many “suspicious activities” here.

(NAME WITHHELD ON REQUEST)  
Member, Amesbury, Mass.  
American Legion Post #187

*Sir:* As a registered nurse I wish to report the following to you:

My best friend, a most intelligent and promising person, has become a Zombie, through tranquilizers. We lived together ten years; she was ordered to take them by MD's due to illness and nervousness for 20 months. She is so completely altered in character as to be unrecognizable. She

has become a Zombie, headless, aimless, will-less, "just sitting around," as your magazine stated. She drinks much water, and San Francisco water is very highly fluorinated. Tranquilizers and fluorine act similarly and both are used to dementalize this nation. The effects are so subtle as to evade observation till it is too late.

PLEASE do your utmost to expose this!

PAULA A. CORNELY  
Jamestown, California

*Sir:* Difficulty in purchasing The AMERICAN MERCURY at newsstands is not the American Way. The same applies to book stores that won't display, or even stock, the books of some of our really great Patriots and American minds. In them the racks and shelves are loaded with trash periodicals that would poison the minds of readers, especially of our youth. This despicable situation prevails notwithstanding all that has been said and done to combat it.

JOHN H. HUMMEL  
Flora, Indiana

Often, we think, the bookstall or the newsstand is like a mirror, reflecting the countenance and the value to the community of the book or newsdealer. But we are slowly getting ready for progress. — ED.

*Sir:* Enclosed please find check for \$2.00 for which please send me 20 copies of the reprint *Who and What is Ralph Bunch?*

I want to commend you for telling the truth about such people.

MRS. MILLARD STEELE  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

*Sir:* Two copies of the AMERICAN MERCURY have convinced me that it is truly the magazine America needs. Here's hoping that many, many more will read it.

(Mrs.) K. FRESE  
Tulsa 6, Okla.

*Sir:* First, let me congratulate you and your magazine on the fine fight you are making to preserve our American way of life.

There has come to my attention a situation which is disconcerting, not to say appalling. It is something called "the City Managers Association." From what I can gather, this is an international organization with headquarters in Switzerland. The "managers" are mostly graduates of the University of Chicago and Wisconsin U. There are most likely others who are directed and placed in key cities and moved around like chessmen. They are elected by the people under the pretext that they are expert "economists" in government. Their salaries are double what the predecessor was paid.

I have asked many people here if they knew of this international organization behind the City Managership and not one had heard a word about it.

(Mrs.) T. P. CUNNINGHAM  
Oak Park, Illinois

Any MERCURY readers know about this outfit? We can't keep up with *all* the new schemes for controlling our thoughts, states and cities. — ED.

*Dear Sir:* The greatest "hidden" scandal in American history of U.S. Bond

"rigging" by our own public servants within the United States Treasury came to light recently.

W. Randolph Burgess, Under-Secretary of the Treasury gave the details in a written statement before the committee on Finance, United States Senate, July 29, 1957, on pages 27, 28 and 29, under paragraph 11, title "THE OFFERING OF THE 3-1/4% BONDS IN 1953." Look at Appendix "A" (next to last sheet) and see "OVER 10 YEARS" offering for 1953. This "give-away" of nearly \$12,000,000 in increased interest went to men who probably contributed less than 10% of this pay-off for the 1952 Republicrat campaign.

LESTER O. WISLER  
Oakland, California

Sir: You ought to make a big effort to get the MERCURY magazine in every beauty shop. The heat from the dryer is nothing compared to the heat generated upon reading your articles regarding Washington and the starry-eyed ones. I went out two weeks ago so burned up I wrote my Senator and Congressman. Just reach the women—that's the place to start. More power to you.

DOROTHY BLAKELY  
Philadelphia 18, Pa.

Sir: The October issue of your illuminating magazine should be read by every loyal American. It is our earnest desire to subscribe to this freedom fighting publication for our President, but with Sperm running THAT show, we fear our money would be spent in vain.

(Mrs.) E. C. YOUNG  
Houston 18, Texas

Sir: "Mark American" Shaughnessy by Edward Newman in your October issue is indeed good American action! Alger Hiss receives a substantial pension, John Stewart Service receives another job, Owen Lattimore lectures, and that splendid patriot, John J. Shaughnessy, is persecuted for attempting to further a cause beneficial to the interest of America.

(Mrs.) G. F. NEWBERRY  
Rochester, 20, N. Y.

Sir: I am enclosing my check for \$4.00.

This is the best investment that I have ever made and every alert American Citizen who possesses any intelligence or integrity should deem it a privilege to subscribe to your magazine.

JOHN J. GANNON  
Houston 1, Texas

### THE COVER S. O. S.

Our Flag at halfmast is our symbol of momentary mourning. Our Flag flown upside down becomes our urgent Distress Signal. At no time in our national history have we *The People* of the United States been in more danger. But, at last, like our valiant founders and ancestors, let us bow our heads in prayer and rally together in patriotism—*against our enemies*, domestic and foreign!

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43. Road to Anti-Communism

Prices: 1 copy — 15¢; 10 copies — \$1.00; 25 copies — \$2.00; 100 copies — \$7.00.

500 copies — \$30.00; 1,000 copies — \$55.00; 5,000 copies — \$250.00

*Prices on quantities over 5,000 copies quoted on request*

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**THE AMERICAN MERCURY** <sup>1</sup> 250 West 57th St., New York 19, N. Y.

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# WE ARE IN DANGER!

THE TIME for mincing words is past. The present term of the Supreme Court, under the inept leadership of Earl Warren, has seen a breach driven into our nation's security system wide enough for the whole Communist conspiracy to troop through.

The United States, today, stands naked and defenseless against the forces of organized internal subversion.

The incredible blunderers who have done this are the present majority of the Supreme Court.

Let's face it.

President Eisenhower, in his trustfulness, has packed the Supreme Court with a crew of fumbling, self-styled "Liberals," most of whom actually stand several degrees to the Left even of the Roosevelt court. And there they will sit for life, long after Eisenhower himself is gone, to do a hatchet job on the people's most precious securities under the Constitution.

Let us examine a few of their unbelievable pro-Communist decisions, handed down since 1956.

- (1) The Court has cut the ground out from under Congressional investigations of Communism through its Watkins Case decision.
- (2) It has eviscerated the Smith Act by its decision in the case of the California Communists.
- (3) It has struck a near fatal blow at the effectiveness of the F.B.I. by its decision in the Jenckes Case that F.B.I. files must be available to accused subversives.
- (4) It has virtually nullified the Federal Security system by its Cole Case decision limiting security safeguards to a comparatively few jobs.
- (5) It has denied the right of the States to protect themselves against Communism by its Nelson Case decision.
- (6) It has plugged up a defense gap for Communist defendants by redefining the meaning of the 5th Amendment in the Halperin Case, as well as by the Slochower Case.

Had the present majority been sitting on the Supreme Court, there is serious question whether even Alger Hiss, Martin Sobell or Harry Gold would ever have gone to prison, when they were convicted.

History will record that his irresponsible packing of the Supreme Court with American Civil Liberties Union 'Liberals' has been President Eisenhower's saddest mistake.

Today—horrifying though it may sound—the Supreme Court, which should be our bulwark, has become the weakest link in the chain of our national security.