

Letters to the Editor

» Concerning your feature "Sound on Disc," I do not wish to sound like an anti-intellectual snob, or like someone who despises good music. I enjoy good music.

Still, I do not think that a magazine such as yours, which vigorously promotes Americanism, is the place for a string of praises of the formal part of Mozart's music.

The jump from a love of form in music, form for form's sake, I might say, to a love for the perfect form in government is easy to make. The present type of American government is a dynamic thing; your magazine determinedly opposes any static, dogmatic type of government like the Communistic type.

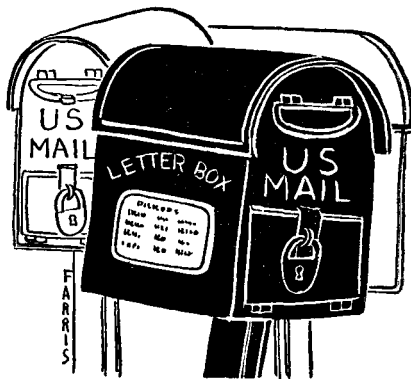
To get a government with beautiful form, people are quick to rule out the glories of individualism; and soon the social planners move in.

Let's forget worshipping planned forms in music; they are like planned forms in society.

RALPH A. SNODGRASS
Tucson, Arizona

» Dr. J. B. Matthews' article in the December issue of the *American Mercury*, "Elmer Davis Runs Scared," was as informative as it was humorous.

I note that in his recent book, *But We Were Born Free*, Elmer Davis numbers the "Fascistoids" in the U.S. as 30,000,000. This number, strangely



enough, corresponds with the number of Catholics in our country.

Although I am not myself a Catholic, I still feel that Elmer Davis may be guilty of unjustly slandering a loyal, honorable, and devout segment of our population.

If Mr. Davis denies he had the Catholics in mind when he put the number of "Fascistoids" in the U.S. at 30,000,000, it would be most interesting to find out exactly how he did arrive at his figure.

CHARLES A. MAXWELL
Boston, Massachusetts

» This letter to the editor is written after reading "In the Mercury's Opinion," in the January issue of the *Mercury*.

Perhaps it would be a good thing if our elected representatives (Democrats and Republicans), the President,

Senators and Congressmen were presented with two blown-up framed copies of the platforms adopted by their respective parties at their national conventions.

One could be hung in each man's office so that Mr. Average Citizen, attempting to discover the State of the Union, could throw an eye over same in lieu of a silent briefing, and shoot out a few pertinent questions.

The other could be hung on his bedroom wall as a refresher, an early morning reminder, that come the [next] Congressional elections, perhaps millions of angered Americans will march to the polls. Then once again "the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

PENDLETON TURNER (Texan)
Washington, D.C.

» I think your magazine is the best in the country and should be read by everyone. I have sold a lot of my friends subscriptions. They only have to read one issue, when they become interested.

MRS. MARJORIE MCHALE
Dewitt, New York

» You've been turning out extraordinary stuff. The October, November, and December issues are all very good. I usually buy at least three copies from the local newsstand and mail them. . . .

Your "How the Communists Hoodwinked FDR" is a notable contribution to Truth and to American History. I do intend to secure reprints to paste in the back of the history textbooks my children use in school. As an historical document it is invaluable.

"Flight From Reason" in the November issue was a noteworthy article

in a noteworthy issue. "Elmer Davis Runs Scared" in December is a gem, and *must* reading.

The *American Mercury* gets better with every issue. I really thought you'd never be able to top last May's issue. But you've even surpassed that!

PEGGY WINK
Boynton Beach, Florida

» Will you please send me another copy of the December *Mercury*? I tore several articles out to send in letters . . . You have a great magazine and I would not be without it.

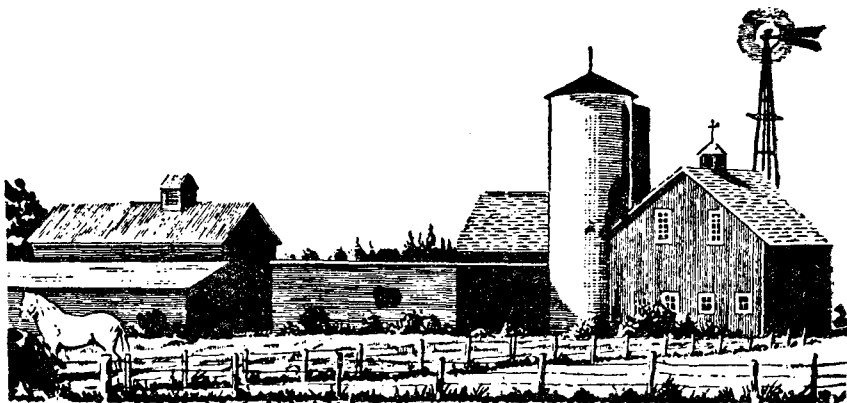
MRS. CLEO SCHEER
Cleveland Heights, Ohio

» For over fifty years I have played a small part in trying to arouse the American people to the fact that they were being taken for a buggy ride to perdition: by the propaganda of the Rhodes Scholars and the Carnegie Foundation, they got us into two wars, you know, to save the British Empire, and lo and behold the Empire was lost anyway, Churchill's big talk to the contrary notwithstanding. The propaganda of the Rhodes and Carnegie crowd left the door open for the Commies to walk in . . .

I buy the *Mercury* once in a while and agree with you completely on your attitude on the doublecross of Poland, China, Korea, and so forth. But now a question: How is it you never have anything to say about the partition of Ireland?????

Are you afraid that the mention of the partition of Ireland might prevent you from getting an invitation to meet royalty?

THOMAS F. RYAN
Bronx, New York



I Sold My Farm—*Hooray!*

BY HOLMES ALEXANDER

HOKUM, I say, is the word for those pastoral rhapsodies written by gentleman farmers who claim they make a profit from the soil. I am contending that the part-time farmer is a full-time liar when he brags that he goes regularly to the office and successfully runs a farm by odd-hour husbandry. I am declaring that the businessman, the writer or the pensioner who regards himself as a farmer has less regard for the truth than amateur fishermen or amorous traveling salesmen in a smoking car.

I'm not just saying these things. I'm confessing them, too. Last year after 15 years of it, I sold my farm and moved to the city.

Heaven lay about me in the infancy of my farm life. My first glimpse of Sweet Meadows Farm, across the Western Maryland Railroad tracks from the hunting shires, put fuel to these celestial visions. Hardly waiting to greet my wife Mary and my child, whom I had sent ahead, I strode to the hilltop to survey my possession. Illusions of feudal grandeur danced in my head.

Back at the house before a crackling fire, I divulged the shape and scope of my plans. First off, I modestly disclaimed any intention of getting rich off the land. Production for use only — that was my principle. Crop and stock were to be raised only to feed and clothe the