

siders the PLO better than Begin, and venerates Studs Terkel as a social sage.

Well, in the end, it may turn out to be propitious for us that the media made themselves so conspicuously brazen: all over America, hatred of the media is on the rise, and the Chicago episode will help. Sooner or later, the trees in Lincoln Park will be ornamented with swinging effigies of editors whose naked despotism and casuistry will eventually propel people into the streets in pursuit of justice for the decades of reckless media oppression of the collective mind. □

### ***You Were Right (After All), Senator McCarthy***

Mr. Michael Whitney Straight—an American blue blood, aristocrat patrician who is heir to enormous wealth, the progeny of the most influential caste, an epitome of the Establishment, a Cambridge University alumnus—has written a book in which he admits to being a longtime Soviet spy, and that his activities probably resulted in the deaths of thousands of American soldiers in

Korea. Instead of being branded as a cheap scoundrel, or simply being ignored, he has been accorded lengthy reviews in our daily press, weekly magazines, and intellectual journals, many of which dwell sympathetically on the plight of a split personality, understandable human failures, and other enigmas of democratic existence. Perhaps the only moral enlightenment in the book comes from an episode in which Mr. Straight confesses his sins, crimes, and contemptibility to FBI officers, one of whom happens to be the son of a gardener on the Straight estate on Long Island, a recipient of his cast-off clothes decades ago. He is now a defender of the Constitution, democracy, and freedom, all of which Mr. Straight has soiled by his mere presence among us. Something even more telling, however, is how right that quintessential simpleton was, that plebeian senator from Wisconsin who stubbornly kept repeating that commie bastards were dug into the highest reaches of this republic's power structure. At that time, Mr. Straight was a high official in the State Department and a White House speech writer. □

## **JOURNALISM**

### **Oh, What a Christian Monitor!**

In a shamelessly biased report on the by-now-infamous conference "Vietnam Reconsidered," held not long ago at USC in Los Angeles, one Stewart McBride, identified as "staff correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor," shrilly brings back all the 1960's antiwar clichés. We do not know exactly what Christian Science considers "truth" or how its staffers monitor it, but *this* piece of journalism makes us shudder. To judge from this piece, Christian Scientists seem to have discerned a method of separating "truth" from "fact" that will certainly help them advance in the realm of radical virtues, but it makes us wonder how far the perversion of the adjective "Christian" and the noun "Science"

can go. Here is what Mr. Seymour Hersh, who is well known for treating both fact and truth with the same reverence as sausage manufacturers treat their ingredients, had to say at the conference:

'I don't think that the press was very relevant to the Vietnam war. For all that good reporting the government still gets away with lying. Nothing we've done in Watergate or Vietnam has changed any of that.'

Mr. McBride concludes in a tone of emphatic support for a view which reveals how his Christian-Scientific journalistic ethics is constructed:

Washington shares 'at least as much'

of the blame as Hanoi for the condition of Vietnam today, said John MacAuliff, a former antiwar activist who has served for the last 10 years as director of the Indochina Program of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Had the United States honored the Paris peace agreement and provided reconstruction aid, as postwar polls showed two-thirds of the American people favored, Vietnam would be a different place today, he said. The proceedings of the 'Vietnam Reconsidered' conference are to be published in the coming year as a textbook by Harper & Row. The book advances and royalties have been donated by USC through AFSC to a health clinic in Ho Chi Minh City.

To the best of our modest knowledge, we have honored the Paris peace agreement, while the Hanoi communists had raped and torn it to shreds even before the ink had dried. And those American Friends who were so sweetly mentioned seem always to serve a Brezhnev or an Andropov dutifully but never the occupant of the White House, whatever his party affiliation. All of which makes the distinguished organ that employs that kind of staff correspondent seem less a monitor and more a dispenser of lies. And apparently, nothing that American liberal journalism has done in Watergate or Vietnam will ever change that. □

### **Lower Mathematics and The Nation**

It has long puzzled us how the intellectuals at *The Nation* managed to successfully complete such courses as Political Science 101 back in the days when they were leading their local John Reed Clubs. A recent article in its pages has brought to light another field of study ignored: lower mathematics. While we make no claim to absolute expertise in the field, we can confidently execute that bane of elementary school students everywhere: the story problem. The article in question excoriates General Motors for the manufacturing agree-

ment it reached with Toyota. The premise is, of course, that what's good for G.M. is bad for the nation—and *The Nation*. The story problem presented is the following:

The venture also won't do much good for the employment rolls. In Fremont, California, it will create 3,000 jobs in a plant where 6,000 workers used to punch in.

Let's simplify it for *The Nation*. A general once had an army with 6000 soldiers. For some reason—perhaps he stopped being an imperialist or a mercenary—he had to let all of his men go: 6000 minus 6000 equals 0. At a future date the general required the services of a number of men—perhaps the CIA gave him a contract—3000, to be exact: 0 plus 3000 equals 3000. The question (and this is always the tricky part) is this: How many soldiers have billets? The answer: 3000. No matter how you twist it, it's still far better than the preagreement 0. □

## Grandma, the Stooge

In the interminable debate of heredity vs. environment, score an equivocal tally for heredity. To disprove the *Washington Post's* charge that the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is being manipulated as a "stooge group" by the Soviets in its rabid disarmament fervor, the Andropov-adoring *Nuclear Times* recently published an article entitled "Grandma Should Know," pointing out that *Post* publisher Donald Graham has now withdrawn the charge and adding:

Graham should have known better from the start. In 1961 his grandmother, Agnes Meyer, a member of the WILPF, ran a WILPF-sponsored seminar . . . on Soviet-American Women. Twelve women were brought over from the Soviet Union to participate.

That Mr. Graham could not stand by his

originally accurate perception suggests that perhaps the pull of defective genes was too strong for him. However, that the editors of *Nuclear Times* actually believe they have discredited rather than corroborated that perception reveals that the worst brain defects are not congenital. □

## Values

A brilliant case of revolutionary internationalism is presented by the existence of one Daniel Singer—allegedly of Polish origin, living in France and writing boring semicomunist copy for America's *The Nation*—a proud bastion of pro-Soviet cosmopolitanism in Manhattan. In a recent article in which he

defines himself as "somebody unfashionably [??? (we didn't think one mark of interrogation could express our astonishment—CC)] interested in the radical transformation of society," he describes one Polish movie:

I thought that the principal characters—a German, a Polish Jew and a Polish Catholic—were equally revolting specimens of capitalists; all of them exuded the ugly smell of success.

Naturally, had they exuded the sublime fragrance of failure, the world would be better, and the angelic Marxist-Leninist faith, which materializes through oppression, starvation, and the occasional killing of millions, could then find its own, superlogical, beatific rationale for that failure. □

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