

## Silent, Bitter Majorities

I PERSONALLY both like and respect Mr T. R. Fyvel but I cannot agree that the law-abiding majority passively accepts minority resistance to the law and that it is unsure of its bearings. The law-abiding majority is in fact increasingly bitter and resentful. Its verdict upon Stephen Gately, the victim in London's Red Lion Square demonstration, was that it is the business of students to study, and that if you don't want to get hurt you shouldn't participate in Left-wing demonstrations. Its verdict upon the I.R.A.'s Price sisters who went on hunger strike was that they should have been allowed to die, and that they should have been hanged anyway.

What is frightening is the width of the gap between the majority and the tiny Left-wing minority which determines the treatment of crime and the preservation of order generally. This minority—as was made obvious when capital punishment for murder was abolished—not only disregards public opinion, but has a positive contempt for it.

I'm not here concerned about whether the majority or the minority is right. Protest against the school of

thought represented by our present (at the time of writing) Home Secretary seems absolutely futile. But at least I can make it clear what the majority feels. To use a vulgar American saying, "You can screw me all night, but you can't make me like it. . . ."

JOHN BRAINE

Woking,  
Surrey

## Trieste—or Zurich

IN YOUR September issue John Weightman writes: "... It was a brilliant idea to think of James Joyce, Tristan Tzara and Lenin as being all together . . . in Trieste during the First World War." If that was Tom Stoppard's idea in his new play *Travesties*, then it is brilliant to the point of travesty. It is more than *Lokal=patriotismus* that moves me to write that it was not Trieste but Zurich. A little more respect for history, dear comrades (as Lenin, in Zurich's *Spiegelgasse* would have said), and for geography.

FRANÇOIS BONDY

Die Weltwoche,  
Zurich

"The New Diplomacy of Movement" (August 1974). . . .

**Donald Watt** is Professor of International History in the University of London. His books include *Personalities and Policies* (1965) and, *A History of the World in the 20th Century* (1967), and he is co-editor of volumes on *Current British Foreign Policy* (1970–73). . . .

**Edward Lucie-Smith** is one of the foremost London art critics. His books include *Movements in Art Since 1945* (1969), *Eroticism in Western Art*, and *Symbolist Art* (Thames & Hudson, 1972). . . .

**John Fuller** is a Lecturer in English at the University of Oxford, and a Fellow of Magdalen College. His volumes of poetry include *Cannibals & Missionaries* and *Epistles to Several Persons* (Secker & Warburg, 1972, 1974). . . .

**Tao Tao Sanders** lectures at the Oriental Institute, Oxford University. She is the translator of a volume of Chinese folk tales, *The Herd Boy and the Ox* (Oxford University Press, 1971), and *Red Candles: The Selected Poems of Wen I-to* (Cape, 1972). . . .

**Jonathan Raban** is the author of *Soft City*, published earlier this year by Hamish Hamilton. . . .

**A. L. Rowse**, historian and poet, has specialised mainly in the Elizabethan period, both in history and literature—with a quartet of volumes on *The Elizabethan Age* and a comparable quartet on Shakespeare and his circle. Dr Rowse is a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. . . .

**Georg Wolf** is one of the editors of *Der Spiegel* in Hamburg. . . .

## AUTHORS

**Shiva Naipaul's** two novels are *Fireflies* and *The Chip-Chip Gatherers*, both published by André Deutsch. . . .

**Dr Bruno Bettelheim** was, until recently, Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Chicago and head of the Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School there. Among his books are two scientific studies on the treatment and rehabilitation of emotionally disturbed children, *Love is Not Enough* (1950) and *Truants from Life* (1955). A more general work of social analysis was published in 1960 under the title, *The Informed Heart: Autonomy in a Mass Age*. His latest books are *Children of the Dream* (1969) and *A Home for the Heart* (just published by Thames & Hudson). . . .

**Stefan Kanfer** is an Associate Editor of *Time* Magazine in New York. . . .

**François Bondy** is an editor of *Die Weltwoche* in Zürich. He is at present a Resident Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. . . .

**Hans Morgenthau** is a distinguished American diplomatic historian. He is now Professor of Political Science at the New School for Social Research in New York. He was previously at the University of Chicago and the City College of the City University of New York. Among his books are *The Purpose of American Politics* (1960), *Politics in the 20th Century* (1962), and *Truth and Power* (1970). His previous articles in *ENCOUNTER* include "Arguing About the Cold War" (May 1967) and

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## Life & Letters Today

North Dakota

**LAST STAND:** As an assault on progress it will have about as much effect as being stabbed with an omelette. Nevertheless, the school board in Drake, North Dakota, has submitted a hefty claim for the town as one of the last outposts of medievalism by ordering the burning of books that offend their sensitivities.

Three dozen copies of Kurt Vonnegut's novel *Slaughterhouse Five*, about the Allied bombing of Dresden, have been denounced as "tools of the devil" and put to the torch. Other books scheduled to be destroyed before their alleged profanity can corrupt the youth of Drake are James Dickey's *Deliverance*, and anthologies of short stories by Ernest Hemingway, John Steinbeck and William Faulkner.

Although all five members of the school board admit that they haven't read any of the books, they have fired Bruce Severy, the 27-year-old English teacher who assigned them to students. "Most of the criticism focuses specifically on some four-letter words commonly referred to as slang" he says. "Their action is academically dishonest, anti-intellectual and irrational."

Drake is appropriately close to where Custer made his last stand.

DAILY MAIL

Ceylon

**O. BIT:** Mrs Bandaranaike's censors in Sri Lanka still seem to need a little training in their jobs. Four days after opposition newspapers were closed down there, and anti-Government meetings banned, this notice appeared yesterday in the obituary column of the Government-controlled *Ceylon Daily News*:

"O'Cracy—the death occurred under tragic circumstances of D. E. M. O'Cracy, beloved husband of T. Ruth, loving father of L. I. Bertie, brother of Faith, Hope and Justitia. Interred on Saturday 20th April."

DAILY TELEGRAPH

Frankfurt

**MARXMANSHIP:** The Editors of the "DUDEN", the great German-language etymological dictionary, have replied to the critique of their latest edition from the Association of East German Journalists. They had been accused of "linguistic manipulation", presumably in the interests of West German propaganda. In their reply they insisted that all the words and their usages were the results of objective research in all the German-speaking areas, "without the slightest attempt to lean one way or the other. . . ." Considered specially dangerous was the use of such phrases as "die Mauer (the Berlin Wall)" and "countries behind the Iron Curtain", as contrasted with "die freie Welt (the free world)". What evidently upset the East-Germans was the absence of the word "Klassenkampf (class struggle)." The West-Germans explained that it was a verbal concept that had no precise equivalent in literal meaning or common usage.

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG

Berlin

**A-TO-Z:** About 500 license plates with letters referring to Nazi organisations are on automobiles here, German officials said today.

The letters are SA, the initials of the brown-shirted stormtroopers; SS, for the Nazi execution squads and elite troops; HJ for the Hitler Youth and KZ for concentration camps.

A member of the opposition Christian Democratic party asked yesterday if the city had to issue such plates. Karl Koenig, Social Democratic head of the City Economics Department that issues the plates, said that, under West German law, requests for such letters cannot be turned down.

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

London

**ANGLO-AMERICAN DIFFERENCES:** American newspaper reporters [writes Alfred Friendly] look with awe and envy at the insouciance with which their British colleagues treat the names of the people they write about. They tend to omit entirely the Christian name when it does not come readily to mind ("Mr Fuller, inventor of the geodesic dome . . ."), they insist that the middle name of all Americans who have one is the front half of a British double surname ("Mr Biddle Duke and Mr Cabot Lodge, the former ambassadors . . ."), and they content themselves with spelling any name, particularly any American name, more or less as it sounds ("Walter Lippman," "Sen Javitz").

But a photo caption and five paragraphs by Penndenis about an American lady identified as Jouette Shousse is a record. Internal evidence, itself pretty tangled, suggests that the subject is Mrs Jouett Shouse (her late husband, as was certainly his right, spelled his first name without a terminal 'e' and his last without a double 's'). Her Christian name is Catherine. She made her splendid donation of her estate as a music center not last year, as Penndenis reports, but eight years ago.

Incidentally, was she entirely kind in relating, and Mr Penn Denis in reporting, that her choice for the American presidency, Mr Nixon, puts himself to sleep with classical music? Many people, including other American presidents—I am thinking, inter alia, of Mr Geoffreyson—maintained themselves quite awake while listening to classical music.

THE OBSERVER

Washington, D.C.

**INFERNAL:** Dr Kissinger is said to have remarked that his difficulties in negotiating a ceasefire between North and South Vietnam is nothing compared with dealing with the various Arab parties and Israel, and that he now understands what Dante's *Inferno* is all about.

DAILY TELEGRAPH



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## John McVicar

### McVICAR BY HIMSELF

Edited by Goronwy Rees

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'a vicious criminal' -

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