

# O U R

*OUR ROSTRUM is your platform. You are invited to submit letters on any of the issues or articles published in FORUM. The best letters will be printed in this column each month. The editor must reserve the right to publish letters in part only because of space limitations.*

## PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

To the Editor:

I read George H. Hallett's article on proportional representation. He speaks of P.R.'s great record. Mr. F. A. Hermans in his book *Tyrants' War and the People's Peace* states that P.R. more than any other thing was responsible for Hitler's rise to power. So does Carl Friedrich in his book *Constitutional Government and Democracy*. In other words, the war probably would never have started if it had not been for P.R. A hell of a record!

WILLIAM CROCKER.  
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Prescott, Arizona.

*Editor's note:* We appreciate the frankness with which Mr. Crocker has expressed his opinion. It is a common one. We promised, however, not to steal Mr. Hallett's thunder. He and Mr. Woodward are returning in the May issue to answer this charge in their concluding discussion.

## THE SOUTH

To the Editor:

Congratulations on "Look Homeward, Liberals" by Ed Ritter. The cause of the South needs more publicity of this kind and less of the *Gone with the Wind—Tobacco Road* variety.

As a Northern liberal, capable of whatever little humility Northern-

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ers possess, Mr. Ritter advises me to sit at home, or perhaps in Washington, and see to it that the South gets a fairer distribution of federal funds or that more industry comes to the South. But here the Northern liberal is stopped cold, by the South. The only way to remedy the capital poverty, the poor schools, poor medical services, poor housing of the South is by federal funds. The Southerner has long bemoaned the fact that he is the forgotten man when it comes to federal disbursements. Yet, the South will get no political favors until it gets rid of the one-party system. No politicians have to bid for the Southern vote. It is always Democratic. What Southerner will ever vote for a Republican? It seems to me that the South is more interested in its traditions than in improving conditions in the South.

Mr. Ritter says that the race problem is fundamentally an economic one, that if industry comes to the South, the racial problem will disappear. Yet, in the most highly industrialized states in the North, there is more bitter feeling against the Negro than in the South. It exists in boom periods when there are jobs for everyone and amongst people who need never fear economic insecurity. This would seem to prove that the race problem, or rather any anti-minority problem, is fundamentally psychological. The Negro, Japanese, Jew, Catholic, Italian, French-Canadian, or any other minority, is just a convenient scapegoat upon which to vent our frustrations. It's simpler than facing our real problems and finding a solution. Until we recognize this fact, we won't get far with economics.

SYDNEY BIGELOW.

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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# EDITOR

## Greece

*What is America's mission?  
Should we back Britain's tra-  
ditional policy or make fun-  
damental changes?*

By asking the United States to take over its commitments in Greece, the British government has caused a political Pearl Harbor.

Greece is the beginning of a turning point in history. If the United States takes over, it will find that other areas soon will be shunted to it.

If Britain cannot afford the expenditure of a few million dollars to keep Greece outside the Russian "iron curtain"—and that is the issue—how can it put forth the \$475,500,000 required to match an equal amount from the United States to keep the Anglo-American zone of Germany alive under the Hoover plan?

It follows that inability in Greece merely heralds inability in Germany. Furthermore, since Greece is found too expensive to maintain, for how long can

Britain continue to put forth the required expenditure of men and money in Palestine? This very question was asked in Commons by former Prime Minister Churchill:

"How long do you think this state of squalid warfare, with all its bloodshed at the cost of £40,000,000 (\$160,000,000) and occupying 100,000 Englishmen away from our other military forces, will go on?"

Arthur Creech Jones, the colonial secretary, to whom the query was directed, had no answer. Neither has the British government. Before long, Palestine, too, may be orphaned to the United States, given the known inadequacy of the United Nations, as now constituted, to handle it.

Never before in its history has this nation been faced with a more fateful decision. The United States, confident of its position as a world power since the war, is now confronted with the choice of becoming one in fact and not just in potentiality or fancy. In the opinion of many, the United States will either assume these unsolicited burdens or only one power will rule the world. It will not be the United States. It will be the Soviet Union, ever ready to fill political vacuums.