

Sirs:

... Scheer is
truthful,
insightful ...

Of all the reviews I have read concerning *The Making of a Quagmire*, by far the very best was Robert Scheer's. Most of the reviews in the liberal press have been mindlessly ecstatic over Halberstam's book, but Scheer is truthful, insightful and, in this day of cautious opinions, courageous. Let's have more reviews by Robert Scheer.

Guy A. Caparelli
New York City

Sirs:

Your issue on Vietnam was splendid, and a most welcome addition to the tired fare on our newsstands.

Mr. Worthy's column leads me to hope that in future issues I may learn more about what is really happening in Indonesia.

Can't say, though, that I thought much of Mr. Prittie's column on England.

Looking forward to further issues.

John Holt
Boston, Massachusetts

Sirs:

I read your article "The Vietnam Lobby" in the current *RAMPARTS* with perhaps a bit more than the usual interest.

You referred to a book titled *The China Lobby in American Politics* by Ross Y. Koen, reputedly published by Macmillan. At the time that book was "published" I was a salesman for Macmillan.

It was a very difficult book to sell to the stores in advance of publication for one reason — almost total lack of interest on the part of the booksellers.

Several weeks before pub date I received a galley which I read with great attention. It seemed to me to be one of those books "which every thinking American should read," to use that tired encomium.

After I had read the galley we were notified by the firm that some minor changes would be made in the finished book. Then, after several more weeks and shortly before pub date, the finished book appeared.

... shortly
before
pub date ...

Very soon after I got my copy, frantic notes from the publishing house notified me to send it back. The few stores which had already been shipped were asked to return the book, as were the reviewers who had been sent copies. No explanation was forthcoming, but some prying on my part elicited a letter from one of the office personnel with instructions to immedi-

ately burn said letter after reading — and for God's sake, to get the book back pronto.

The gist of the letter was that the publishing house had been threatened with suit by the Nationalist Chinese government if publication was not halted. There weren't many particulars, except a reference to one paragraph, which I believe was in the galley, but not in the finished book. That paragraph said that the Nationalist government on Formosa had connived in the smuggling of opium onto the Red mainland. The writer of the letter cited this to me as an example of what the Nationalists had objected to.

The point seemed to be that the documentation, supposedly obtained from United States Department files, was no longer in the files.

Like a damn fool I hustled my copy back to the firm. I think it would be factual to say that the book was never officially published. Most of the books never got out of the warehouse, and the few which were shipped were either returned to the publisher or found their way into the stacks of university libraries. A friend of mine in the used book business recently sold a copy to a university library for \$50.

... the
power of
Chiang ...

You may already know more about this publication imbroglio than I do, but it is quite a comment on the power of Chiang. We could hear those chains rattling all the way from Formosa. Chiang may be a paper tiger, but evidently his growls were enough to scare off one of the largest publishing firms in the country.

Name withheld

MULLS
ON
MILLS

Sirs:

We wondered when a publication would pay tribute to C. Wright Mills. *RAMPARTS* deserves many congratulations and our most sincere gratitude for a memorable and moving feature. We continue to share with you, Saul Landau, the profound loss.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Schwendinger
Iowa City, Iowa

Sirs:

What pleased and interested me most in your August issue was Saul Landau's excellent evocation of the last six months of life of C. Wright Mills. It is not easy to communicate the essence of that dynamic, perceptive, hugely impatient and ever-hungry man, born a century or more before his time, but this article succeeds

admirably. All of us who share Mill's concern about the modern world owe Mr. Landau a considerable debt.

Robert G. Mead, Jr.
University of Connecticut
Storrs, Connecticut

GOSSAGE'S
MESSAGES

Sirs:

Once again I am moved to write to RAMPARTS in high praise.

Gossage's article on Freedom of the Press is a model of what sociological analysis should be: written from a committed view, seizing on a vital issue, pointing to a decisive and feasible remedy.

The report on Father Pire's vision is more than moving. And his thought shares the same practical wisdom, joined to faith, hope and charity.

... real
dialogue
(à la Pire) ...

Can we put the two ideas together? Can we have real dialogue (à la Pire) on one after another of the principal institutions of society (as Gossage began for the press)? Is the function of RAMPARTS not just that? Has it not already begun?

John R. Seeley
Stanford, California

Sirs:

Tho' I haven't finished my August RAMPARTS yet, I had to say "well done" to Mr. Gossage for an interesting and very informative article.

Thank you all for keeping such consistent quality in the only real "top quality" general magazine I have ever read. (By "general" I mean non-scientific.) Please keep up the excellent work, at any cost.

Ellen Shipley
Detroit, Michigan

Sirs:

The article by Mr. Howard Gossage is truly timely. We've seen a number of fine publications suffer the process of "painted whoring" he describes.

... advertising
agency
coercion ...

I ardently wish he had the opportunity to test his notion of laying the facts of advertising agency coercion before a 3 million member (I'd anticipated, even before I read it, he meant SEP) body of readers — I'll bet that body would recognize a true friend, in his appeal!

I've been watching this business — participating in it, for thirty-five years, and lately I detect trends that frighten me.

Keep up the good work.

Jo Kotula
Morristown, New Jersey

THE
PEERLESS
PIRE

Sirs:

On speculation, I picked up a copy of RAMPARTS from a newsstand and found its contents rewarding and useful. The writing is of a high caliber, the makeup excellent and, best of all, the magazine has something to say. I shall recommend it to my friends.

I would especially like to commend you on your special report on Dominique Georges Pire. The extent of Father Pire's efforts makes interesting reading to be sure, but the glimpse of his philosophy that the article provided was a moving and inspiring experience. One can envy the Dominican priest because his commitment is so clear and all-absorbing to himself. Perhaps Justice Goldberg should be invited for a session at the University of Peace before attaching himself to that insolvent system of monologues that is the United Nations.

... Goldberg
should be
invited ...

Stanley R. Strick
Seattle, Washington

Sirs:

I have read with considerable interest Bradford Daniel's article, "The Noble Vision of Father Pire" which appeared in the August issue of RAMPARTS. My congratulations to Mr. Daniel for his interesting report on Father Dominique Pire, and to your excellent staff, for making each issue of RAMPARTS a rewarding experience.

Eloise P. Deist
Fort Worth, Texas

Cover:

Barnaby Conrad is responsible for our cover. We caught up with him while he was on vacation. He was ready to go right to work, but we told him to rest up for the big effort.

Let's admit it: Pope John XXIII was a rather homely man by ordinary measure, and even Barnaby, with all his talent, could not erase that fact. John was as homely as the soil from which he sprang, but the man who launched Vatican II had a face that projected simple and unqualified love.

We told Barnaby that we wanted the portrait to reflect the late Pope's feelings as if he were alive today to see what has befallen his noble efforts for renewal and reform of Roman Catholicism. And Barnaby saw John as he has portrayed him on our cover. The simple fact of the tear, we believe, represents a great body of opinion.