

publisher's notes

• REASON SUBSCRIPTION LIST

RENTAL: From time to time we receive complaints from readers about their privacy being violated because they think REASON has sold their names and addresses to various junk mailers. We would like to explain what's really going on. REASON never has and does not now sell its mailing list, to anyone; we do indeed respect our subscribers' privacy and do not wish their names to end up on anyone's list (including the FBI's or the CIA's). But REASON readers *do* sometimes receive direct-mail advertising as a result of their being on our mailing list. This is because we sometimes rent our mailing list as a means of raising needed revenue. In list rentals, as opposed to sales, the advertiser does *not* obtain a copy of the mailing list; he receives only a single set of address labels to be pasted onto his mailing envelopes. As is standard practice, our mailing list is "seeded" with dummy names so that we can detect any unauthorized mailings (as would happen if the advertiser violated the rental contract and copied the labels).

REASON reviews the advertising copy of each mailer before approving the list rental; not all of the advertisers we approve are libertarians (neither are all of the ones who purchase ad space in our pages). Many of the items which are sent by those renting our list discuss events, organizations or products of interest to many of our readers—and, in this sense, one advantage of being a REASON subscriber is that readers can expect to receive occasional mailings with information our readers can use. We refuse to rent the list to any advertiser whose material is, in our judgment, antifreedom or otherwise offensive (and we turn down quite a few). In this way we attempt to minimize any annoyance to our readers, while not com-

pletely depriving ourselves of an essential source of advertising revenue. If a piece of junk mail annoys you, throw it out. But rest assured that the advertiser has not purchased your name from us; he may have rented our list (after we have approved his material), but only for a one-time use.

• TACKLING BUREAUCRACY IN

ITALY: The *Los Angeles Times* recently carried a feature article (March 10) on the "vast, swollen, underworked and notoriously inefficient Italian governmental bureaucracy, the most cumbersome of the Western industrialized nations." To illustrate the attitude of the Italian public toward government agencies, *Times* reporter William Tuohy recounted the story of an influential Milanese businessman who arrived at a government agency in Rome after lunch to transact an urgent matter before taking a late afternoon flight back to Milan.

On arriving at the agency, the businessman found the office deserted except for a janitor. "What's going on here?" the businessman asked, "Don't they work in the afternoon?" "No, signore, you have got it wrong," the janitor replied. "It is in the morning they don't work. In the afternoon, they don't come."

The *Times* noted the incredible difficulties confronting reformers attempting to pare down the Italian bureaucracy with its 60,000 separate governmental agencies. One success story was the closing down of the interprovincial Institute for Fighting Against Malaria in Venice—40 years after malaria ceased to be a problem there! Reformers are still working to eliminate such agencies as the National Agency for the Distribution of Medicine Donated by the Allies in World War II and the Associ-

ation for the World War II Orphans (the youngest of whom must now be 30). We wish the Italian reformers well in their valiant struggle.

• **LIES AND DECEPTION:** A recent national poll conducted by opinion analyst Pat Caddell showed that 69 percent of Americans believe their government consistently lies to them—as compared with 35 percent who held this belief in 1972. The problem of lying isn't confined to federal government officials, but commonly exists among politicians who are striving to get elected to office. In a dramatic article by investigative reporter Steven Brill in *New York* (March 17), "George Wallace Is Even Worse Than You Think He Is," the Wallace legend is examined to see whether Wallace indeed "says what he thinks," and whether as governor of Alabama, Wallace practices what he preaches concerning governmental abuse of power and other issues.

Brill concludes that Wallace is "none of the things his admirers claim, and that his continued presence on the horizon represents nothing more than a triumph of sham over substance." Some of Brill's criticisms reflect his own strong antilibertarian prejudices—particularly in his criticism of Wallace's programs on tax reform, where Wallace is taken to task for not raising many taxes or for not proposing the elimination of various tax loopholes. But Brill does raise some serious questions about Wallace's willingness to deliver on his rhetoric, and charges that Wallace has been related to influence-peddling activity involving Alabama's government-owned liquor stores. We like Wallace's stands on such issues as combatting the federal bureaucracy and reducing high taxes, and he makes more sense to us than any of the other leading Democratic contenders. But given his conduct in office, we're not satisfied that Wallace is worthy of libertarian support.

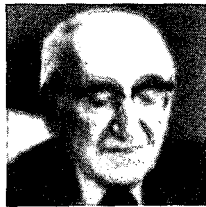
• **GLAD YOU TOLD US:** John Kenneth Galbraith has come up with an incredible new explanation of inflation. According to an article in the *Los Angeles Times* (Dec. 1), Galbraith stated before a conference on the monetary system in Rome that "the root cause of inflation was the breakdown of the class system and the consequent aspiration of the poor to consume as much as the rich." When Mr. Galbraith goes so far as to blame the aspiration of the poor for inflation—instead of identifying the culprit as credit expansion pursued by government monetary policies—we suspect that Mr. Galbraith may himself be heading towards some sort of "breakdown." □



TWO ESSAYS

by Nobel Prize Winning Economist

Friedrich A Hayek



The peculiar character of the problem of a rational economic order is determined precisely by the fact that the knowledge of the circumstances which we must use never exists in concentrated or integrated form but solely as the dispersed bits of incomplete and frequently contradictory knowledge which separate individuals possess. The economic problem of society is thus not merely a problem of how to allocate "given" resources — if "given" is taken to mean given to a single mind which deliberately solves the problem set by these "data." It is rather a problem of how to secure the best use of resources known to any of the members of society, for ends whose relative importance only these individuals know. Or, to put it briefly, it is a problem of the utilization of knowledge which is not given to anyone in its totality.

... The Use of Knowledge in Society

The character of the process by which the views of the intellectuals influence the politics of tomorrow is therefore of much more than academic interest. Whether we merely wish to foresee or attempt to influence the course of events, it is a factor of much greater importance than is generally understood. What to the contemporary observer appears as the battle of conflicting interests has indeed often been decided long before in a clash of ideas confined to narrow circles. Paradoxically enough, however, in general only the parties to the Left have done most to spread the belief that it was the numerical strength of the opposing material interests which decided political issues, whereas in practice these same parties have regularly and successfully acted as if they understood the key position of the intellectuals. Whether by design or driven by the force of circumstances, they have always directed their main effort toward gaining the support of the "elite," while the more conservative groups have acted, as regularly but unsuccessfully, on a more naive view of mass democracy and have usually vainly tried directly to reach and to persuade the individual voter.

... The Intellectuals and Socialism

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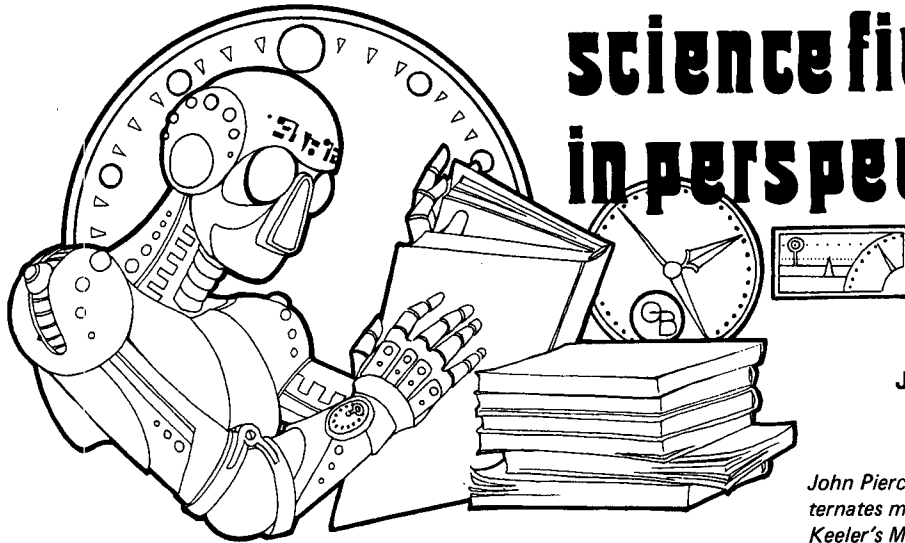
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science fiction in perspective

JOHN J PIERCE

John Pierce's Science Fiction column alternates monthly in REASON with Davis Keeler's Money column.

THE WONDROUS WORK OF CORDWAINER SMITH

In a field where innovations quickly become influences, Cordwainer Smith remains almost unique. To the general public, he remains almost unknown.

Authors aren't always treated justly in their lifetimes—Smith died in 1966. Recognition, let alone popularity, sometimes eludes those who seem to deserve it most.

This isn't often the case in science fiction. From Verne and Wells through E. E. Smith and Weirbaum, Heinlein and Asimov, Pohl and Kornbluth, Zelazny and LeGuin, success has usually come quickly—even overnight.

Cordwainer Smith was an exception only in the relative sense. He was known to readers of SF magazines, and several of his books were published by lesser-known paperback houses. He was a cult figure to his fans—but he never won a Hugo or a Nebula, and never achieved widespread popularity.

Smith wrote of a future that stretched 15,000 years and as many light years beyond our own time—a future that was a strange blend of Occidental and Oriental cultural influences, entire cycles of history from atomic wars and dark ages through the adventurous conquest of the stars to decadent utopia—and beyond.

Across the stage of this immense pageant pass such bizarre figures as the manshonyagger war machines, the half-mechanified scanner pilots, the pinlighters who do bat-

tle in space through telepathic symbiosis with their cats, the Go-Captains who steer interstellar liners by mind alone and the animal-derived underpeople who perform most of mankind's labors in a distant age.

Guiding human destiny through the millennia is the mysterious Instrumentality of Mankind, which is something like a political elite, but not exactly; something like a priesthood, but not exactly. Much of Smith's writing takes the form of an invented mythology, rather than straight history—and it is often hard to separate the "real" from the "legendary."

Perhaps this will be the year Smith begins to receive wider recognition. Ballantine Books has already published the first complete edition of his only SF novel, *Norstrilia*, which has been arbitrarily chopped in two by a previous publisher; and *The Best of Cordwainer Smith* is scheduled for release soon (July for the Science Fiction Book Club edition, September for the paperback).

THE REAL SMITH

If Smith's influence has been slight until now, it may be because it takes a unique sort of experience to create the sort of universe he imagined. Smith's real identity—which remained a secret until shortly before his death—was Dr. Paul Myron Anthony Linebarger, a world traveller who was an authority on Far East affairs, Oriental art, psychological warfare, religion and world literature.

His life will make a fascinating biography if anyone ever gets around to writing it. He was born in 1913, son of a retired judge who helped finance the Chinese

Revolution and godson of Sun Yat Sen. His childhood was spent in China and, when civil war made life too dangerous there, in Japan, Germany, France and, occasionally, even the United States.

Besides learning six languages by his teens, Linebarger acquired a taste for literature—including SF—in all those languages. But to the world at large, he was a diplomat, college professor, Army intelligence officer and foreign policy advisor—his career as a science fiction writer was one known but to a few.

That career began as early as 1928, when a 15-year-old boy in China sold a story called "War No. 81-Q"—no one can seem to remember where. But Cordwainer Smith first appeared in 1950 when an obscure and short-lived magazine called *Fantasy Book* published "Scanners Live in Vain"—which had been making the rounds of editors for five years.

Readers weren't quite sure what to make of this story, in which the scanners, whose brains have been disconnected from their bodies save for sight, must read instruments to find out if their vital processes are functioning—and adjust them if need be. And if readers could grasp the scanners, what were they to make of allusions to the Instrumentality, and to the Wild that is inhabited only by the Beasts and the manshonyaggers and the Unforgiven?

Only gradually did Smith reveal the full scope of the universe in which "Scanners" and other stories take place. Most of the historical "facts" were set down in notebooks—one since lost. But his stories are not history, but *experience*—experience as