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# WHO— WHAT— WHY—

OUR READERS will not be surprised that **Max Ascoli's** editorial in this issue is on Little Rock. What has been happening there is bad enough but, as the editorial shows, the impact of Little Rock goes well beyond Arkansas and the problem of racial relations in the South. . . . A portrait of Governor Faubus is provided by a free-lance writer who happens to be a citizen of Little Rock, the Reverend **Colbert S. Cartwright**, pastor of the Pulaski Heights Christian Church.

The administration came into office promising a sound dollar. But lately even our dollar, the soundest of all currencies, has shown some evidence of that particular form of swelling called inflation. Or is it inflation? Recently, international experts met in Washington, where they registered their deep concern over this state of affairs. Their cogitations are reported by **Sidney Hyman**, author of *The American President*. . . . The singular power brought to bear on the destiny of our dollar by a man not widely known to the general public, William McChesney Martin, is described by **M. J. Rossant** of the staff of *Business Week*.

THE EISENHOWER DOCTRINE, proclaimed last January in order to cope with the chaos of the Middle East, has so far met with precious little success. The Middle East remains as troubled as ever and the administration is now facing a state of affairs in Syria that could easily turn out even worse than last year's Suez crisis. **Chalmers M. Roberts** is on the editorial staff of the *Washington Post and Times Herald*. . . . Our Mediterranean Correspondent, **Claire Sterling**, has been interviewing some very odd characters in Rome and Naples: gangsters who have been deported from the United States to their native Italy. Many of them can hardly speak Italian and, like all the rest, "Lucky" Luciano seems to be rather homesick for the land where he was younger and more successful. . . . During **Hans**

**Rogger's** travels in the Soviet Union, he did not interview Mr. Khrushchev; he talked instead with a great many plain people, since his main interest was to find out how ordinary citizens live and what they hope for. Mr. Rogger is a member of the faculty at Sarah Lawrence College.

**Madeleine Chapsal**, a French writer and frequent contributor to *The Reporter*, explores the influence that America wields in France, not so much in political or economic matters as in various social and cultural realms that the French have always considered their own special province. . . . **Roger Maren** had a talk with a young American jazz composer who claims to find a point of reference for his work in the quality of "enargia"—a term much used throughout the Renaissance, he assured Mr. Maren, and discoverable in specialized dictionaries available to the classicists of Princeton, where the composer has studied. Mr. Maren also lives in Princeton. . . . **Marvin Felheim**, a professor of English at the University of Michigan, is spending a sabbatical year in England. . . . Rather than dignify Jack Kerouac's novel *On the Road* with a serious review, **George R. Clay** has written a parody of its aimless excitement and anger. Two of Mr. Clay's short stories appeared in *Martha Foley's Best Short Stories of 1956*. . . . **John Kenneth Galbraith**, Professor of Economics at Harvard and author of *The Great Crash, 1929*, makes his own amusing comments on *Parkinson's Law*—whose author, Professor C. Northcote Parkinson, we are delighted to identify as the Raffles Professor of History at the University of Malaya.

Our cover is by **Gregorio Prestopino**.

Our Washington Editor, **Douglass Cater**, is on leave of absence, having been granted an Eisenhower Fellowship that will allow him to visit a number of foreign countries including Britain, Russia, and India.

# THE REPORTER

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# The Curse of Indecision

**I**T WAS bound to happen: The Supreme Court ruling on desegregation had been flouted so flagrantly and repeatedly by Southern authorities and mobs that the Federal government could not help quelling one of these brushfire rebellions with a show of force. The President, it has been said, had no alternative. Do we need to say that the President was right? Maybe we do, for this is one of those occasions when every citizen must take his stand. We must also respectfully add that a man does not deserve much credit for acting as an agent of necessity—particularly when this man is the Chief Executive of a powerful, free nation.

This is a strange, sad kind of national unity that extends throughout the country, with the exception—we are sure not total—of the South. We have all to bow to the inevitable, and can play only a few variations on the theme it dictates. This is a rather unseemly way to practice freedom. But, like the President, we have no choice. All citizens, particularly those who pass public judgment on our nation's affairs, must subject themselves to unquestionable and definite obligations.

We must, first of all, avoid evoking the ghosts of the Civil War and of the post-Civil War Reconstruction. No one in the South, we suppose, is even dreaming of secession, and the prospect is rather remote that spokesmen for a new Confederacy-to-be will appeal to the U.N. and ask to have the Southerners' right to self-determination recognized. Senator Eastland of Mississippi, on learning of the President's order to send Federal troops to Little Rock, exploded: "This makes Reconstruction II official." The senator could use a refresher course in history. He would learn then how great is the difference between Northern war chieftains like Generals Philip Sheridan and Daniel E. Sickles, who, following an order of Congress, took over the "conquered provinces," and Major General Edwin A. Walker, commander of the Federal forces in Arkansas, who gave the children of Central High one of the best lectures on civics ever delivered in any high school.

**I**N FACT, there has been too much talk about the need for keeping this nation "one and indivisible." The nation's unity is not in danger, and there is little assist-

ance to be derived from the memories of Abraham Lincoln or of Robert E. Lee, unless it is from their unsurpassed dedication to duty. At the utmost, the unity of the Democratic Party is in danger, and that can scarcely be considered a new departure in our history.

What afflicts the nation now is a deficiency of the national will. Even this negative, passive unity around the President is an evidence of this. We all, the President included, cannot help being sad, patriotic, and virtuous. But this is not the re-enactment of the old drama that shook the nation in the second half of the nineteenth century. This is not—even remotely—the unmaking of the Union that came into being at the end of the eighteenth century. This is a brand-new drama, entirely unrehearsed, the drama of national indecisiveness in the second half of the twentieth century.

## Stuck With *The Federalist*

From this viewpoint General Eisenhower is the perfect representative of the nation. Since the beginning of his administration, this man who had been a reluctant candidate for the Presidency has exhibited a striking reluctance to use his power as Chief Executive. In his formal addresses to Congress, in his campaign speeches as well as in his press conferences, he has always made it as clear as he could that Federal government acts best when it acts least.

Since he has been twice nominated by his party and twice elected by the nation, it would be unfair to attribute sole responsibility to him for the consequences of the principles he has repeatedly, if cloudily, proclaimed. On countless occasions he has stated his belief that the Federal government had encroached on too many activities that the states are better suited to handle. His motives have been of a most laudable nature, for unquestionably the essence of democracy lies in the correlated existence of many centers of self-government. The trouble is, however, that in the President's mind the two major protagonists of self-government are still the same as they were when the Constitution was written. Perhaps, as has been said, he has actually read *The Federalist* lately, and still wonders who had a