

## POLITICS

(Continued from page 18)

ing and enjoyment. As such, your radio or TV set won't give you a quiz show that comes close.

**DON'T VOTE TILL YOU READ THIS.** *Compiled and edited by Anton Gud. Austin-Phelps, New York. \$1.25.* According to the publishers, "this volume is indispensable to the voting man of intellect and belly-laugh alike." To which an unkind critic would rejoin, "Indispensable for what?"

It's bad enough that several million parents are about to lose caste and authority in the eyes of their children by refusing to support Howdy Doody for President. Now, here comes Anton Gud demanding we move not and think not until we read what "in vehement, down-to-earth language are the sentiments of an aroused cross-section of our land."

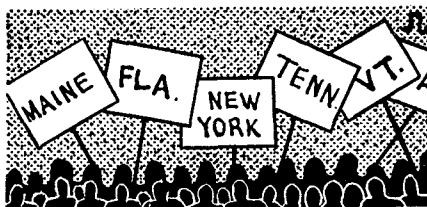
These purport to be letters—serious and humorous on thoughts political—which the author claims to have extracted from the voting population. That they represent a cross-section, I doubt seriously. That they might be worth your time as political instruction is not open to question: they aren't. And as for belly-laughs, all the response I get from down there is a feeling of nausea. Howdy Doody, at least, diverts the kids for thirty minutes, five days a week.

**REVITALIZING A NATION: A Statement of Beliefs, Opinions, and Policies Embodied in the Public Pronouncements of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. Correlation and captions by John M. Pratt.** *Garden City Books, New York. Cloth, \$2. Paper, \$1.* Herein the editor has taken the public speeches and press releases by General MacArthur, snipped and rearranged them, eliminated the obvious inconsistencies, and then pasted them together into chapters which are supposed to be distillates of the general's beliefs. Presumably this procedure spares readers and publishers alike from those dreary volumes of collected speeches which gather dust in our public libraries and second-hand stores. But while such books undoubtedly cut publishing costs and give employment to editors, it is questionable whether they do fairly by the purchaser or the original thoughts thus strung together. For one thing, speeches like these are delivered at separate points in time; marriage of their paragraphs may be accom-

plished smoothly, as they are here, but their original meaning and nuances are invariably isolated. For another thing, what remains on the cutting room floor is, often as not, a better gauge to the wisdom of the speeches. The collection, as its title suggests, is all in favor of the general—to put it mildly. Editor Pratt looks at his subject and sees a man with "such a knowledge of the historical past and such an insight into a divinely ordained future that he fashions the deeds of today to mesh with a tomorrow of one thousand years from now." To equal that kind of billing, the general's remarks quoted here would have to be rated one slight step below the Bible as living literature. They aren't quite that deathless, and their significance is pretty much dependent upon your prior convictions.

**REPUBLICANISM REAPPRAISED: A Diagnosis of the Grand Old Party.** *By Roland N. Stromberg. Public Affairs Press, Washington. \$2.* Although he claims to have at heart the best interests of the G.O.P., Professor Stromberg appraises Republicanism as if he were a junk dealer. Aside from the memory of Lincoln and the interlude of Teddy Roosevelt, he sees little in the party record to praise.

To Mr. Stromberg, the outstanding characteristic of historical Republicanism in domestic matters has been a standpat (or worse) attitude except where the financial benefit of rich and mighty campaign contributors was concerned. And, since 1920 anyway, he considers isolationism to have been the basic quality of G.O.P. foreign policy. As for the "old guard" party leadership, you can probably guess his opinions of McKinley, Hanna, Harding, Lodge I, Tafts I and II,



Hoover, and other corporate directors of the elephantine political enterprise.

The trouble with Mr. Stromberg's analysis, however, is not his partisanship. It is his discounting of historical facts. In fastening sins around the Republican neck, it is a doubtful practice to replace a historical context with an "iffy" solution demonstrated by hindsight. Thus, set against his proper background of the 1890's, McKinley wasn't that bad a President.

Furthermore, if the economic thinking of Coolidge and Hoover is primitive when compared to the economics of Keynes, it is well to remember that the Keynesian Revolution began formally in 1936.

In truth, if the G.O.P. were as bad in the past as Professor Stromberg says, it should now be an extinct curio like the Whigs and the Federalists. This season, it is clear that the elephant still lives. Yet, after twenty years on the sidewalk outside 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, it is equally clear that Republicanism does need some refurbishing. This book, while very indefinite on specifics, suggests a "realistic" internationalist foreign policy, and a stiff dose of "me-tooism" plus a stiffer concoction called "we can do it better and cheaper." —PETER R. LEVIN.

**WENDELL WILLKIE.** *By Mary Earhart Dillon. Lippincott. \$4.* Mary Earhart Dillon explains in her preface that her biography of Wendell Willkie "is essentially a study in public opinion, party politics, and public relations." Her book is a little less than that, and a little more than that, too; for, although we are not told much about public opinion and public relations, we are given a good deal of fresh material about Willkie himself and about the snake that bit him a hundred times, party politics. Mrs. Dillon devotes a large part of her work—perhaps too much—to Willkie's fight against the TVA. There is an excellent account of his second phase, so-called, the astonishing Presidential campaign of 1940, when Willkie managed to secure twenty-two million popular votes, the largest number ever received by any defeated Presidential candidate in the nation's history. (This section of the book is, incidentally, a fine study of the peculiar mechanics of party politics.) After he lost the election, Willkie, as the "loyal opposition" to FDR, went on his crazy-quilt "One World" tour as Roosevelt's personal representative, on which, we are told, he may have done more harm than good because of his habitual rudeness and inconsiderateness. By 1943 he was washed up politically; he had thrown away, through sheer ineptness, the Republican nomination, which he might have had again in 1944. When he died, late in 1944, he was only fifty-two. He had been a kind of magnificent Billy Sunday of politics—ungovernable, irascible, and quasi-brilliant—and we are surprised once more that "the great man," as Mrs. Dillon wearily calls him, never did hold any political office during his fireball career.

—WHITNEY BALLIETT.

## THE KOREAN FRONT IN CHICAGO

(Continued from page 11)

of America's diplomats and faithfully reflects their versions of local affairs, especially in the case of Ambassador Merle Cochran in Indonesia. Everywhere, he adds, he came on "the ugly trail of damage done to our diplomatic service by unfounded or ignorant criticism at home." He is critical only of American ECA (now MSA) and information personnel, and joined our own local diplomats and some of the local government officials in smirking deprecatingly over the efforts of these non-diplomatic missions.

WHEN it comes down, however, to the key question of what is to be done by the United States in relation to this whole area, Governor Dewey in substance falls back on the only nostrum which his Republican fellows in all camps have been able to offer and which the Administration, in such large measure, has accepted: the doctrine of force. In the knotty and almost insoluble impasse of war and politics in Indochina, the governor brushes aside all consideration of the way in which the curse of French domination can be exorcised and an all-Vietnamese power created to cope with the Communists. Various proposals to this end, he announces, "are nonsense." He proposes instead: "The tough hard war against treason or insurrection must be won while political and social changes are made." This is to

be done by drawing "a line" and giving warning that if the Chinese invade Southeast Asia "we will retaliate with all the force and with every weapon at our command." This appears to demand that we undertake in advance to fight another Korean war in Indochina.

For his general conclusions, the governor falls back on two scanty pages of broad generalizations which come down to the same prescription. He says nothing about broad political and economic initiatives and urges collective action on a military basis to hold the outer rim of the Pacific. Although in respect to Indochina he talked of drawing a specific line, here he insists that "we do not need to be committed to respond to attack in any particular way or in any particular spot." He has no suggestion for breaking the Korean deadlock and says only that "if France remains steadfast in Indochina, Southeast Asia and the free Pacific can win through—always provided that the Red Chinese do not launch a new invasion." And this invasion, he promises, will not come, if a Pacific treaty of mutual defense is quickly negotiated. Such a treaty is already in being. It is a treaty among Western nations and involves only a small edge of the Asian fringe. Beyond it lies the whole of Asia, being driven along other tortured paths diverging, tragically, from our own.

## The Criminal Record

*The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction*

Title and Author	Crime, Place, and Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
THE CORPSE THAT REFUSED TO STAY DEAD <i>Hampton Stone</i> (S&S: \$2.50)	N.Y. music students' ménage goes off pitch with demise of two lady members; Asst. D.A. Gibson queries survivors.	Lip-reading technique adroitly handled; not all characters sharply drawn, but fluent job.	Plus mark
OBIT DELAYED <i>Helen Nielson</i> (Ives Washburn: \$2.50)	Waitress slaughtered in So. Cal. honky-tonk; other dust-bitings ensue; news-hawks follow trail through blood and ink.	Reportorial talent verges on hammy; story has some motion, but nowhere exceeds speed limit.	So-so
DEAD MAN'S PLANS <i>Mignon G. Eberhart</i> (Random: \$2.50)	Chicago Gold Coast family sniffs at new sister-in-law; murder alters faces.	Captain Waggon (stout fellow) remains courteous, capable, as <i>crise de nerfs</i> grips gentry.	Agitated

—SERGEANT CUFF.



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