

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POPE LEO XIII

I AM SURE that it is only a printer's error on page 11 in the article "American Labor and the Book," by Mark Starr [SR Sept. 4], where Starr ascribes the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* to Pope Leo XII instead of XIII. There was quite a difference in time between these two holy men.

HERMAN D. BLOCH.

Bridgeport, Conn.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEMOCRACY

N.C.'s EDITORIAL, "New Facts and Empty Assumptions" [SR Sept. 4], is the plainest and most searching analysis of our mistakes and our responsibilities that we have read. It accords with our traditions and basic principles of conduct. We feel that his suggestions must again become policy in our relations with other nations. As he points out, armed services alone are not sufficient, however necessary. Our greater power lies in insistence that other nations shall have the same rights we possess and assert.

MERLE D. AND HELEN R. VINCENT.

Santa Rosa, Calif.

EMINENTLY FAIR

THANK YOU for getting together such a good ACCENT ON EDUCATION issue [SR Sept. 11], and thank you for your eminently fair statement about education in your "The Great Debate in American Education." Recent articles in national magazines make one especially glad to see an issue such as yours.

KEN WINETROUT.

Springfield, Mass.

THE MODERN EXPERIENCE METHOD

BEING A FORMER SCHOOLTEACHER, descended from a long line of schoolteachers, I read SR's ACCENT ON EDUCATION issue with great enjoyment. I was particularly interested in the description of the "Modern Experience Method" of teaching reading.

At the turn of the century my mother was teaching in a one-room rural school in Illinois when the first telephone line was put through the community. Needless to say, it was an "experience" in the lives of those isolated country people impossible to imagine in this age of daily miracles.

My mother anticipated the "Modern Experience Method" by more than fifty years. She taught her students (even those who did not yet know their alphabet!) to read, write, and spell such words as telephone, receiver, transmitter, ring, line, number, etc. I believe she also anticipated another modern practice in education; "integration" of subjects, to say nothing of a "completely individualized reading program" in which no two students read from the same reader, much less the same lesson. I hope my daughter, Effie Cooper,



"Oh, that's Dumbrowswicz again—tremendous drive, no sense of direction."

who plans to teach in 1960, will be as modern and well integrated as her grandmother Effie Anderson was in 1900!

MRS. T. STANLEY COOPER.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

DETECTION AND RETRIBUTION

IN CONNECTION with your education issue it may be appropriate to suggest that psychologists and psychiatrists ask themselves why we have so much juvenile delinquency in America compared to Canada and Great Britain, where juvenile delinquency has decreased 14 per cent while ours has increased 30 per cent. I submit this as an answer.

Our Government in Washington has no power to act in murder and, as for the States, they have neither, the cash-on-hand nor the personnel nor the equipment to handle anything but bag-snatching. From the earliest days in the West Canada opened up her new lands without murder because the Dominion Government at Ottawa was immediately interested in every dead man from Halifax, N. S., to Prince Albert, B. C., and from Winnipeg to the North Pole. Interested also is the Governor General representing the Queen and the lonely NWM Policeman watering his pony on the Upper Yukon and every agency from a British battleship to a canoe on Slave Lake—all part and parcel of a nationwide commitment for inculcating the Canadian people with the idea that murder was and now is to be considered Bad Form!

But what of the murders and brutalities in early Montana, Idaho, Colorado, and California? Who cared anything about that? Not Congress in Washington. So any enterprising gunman could kill an honest citizen in Arizona and be in Missouri with the man's roll by daylight, safe as any other American from reprimand. The same goes for the boys today. The States can't handle juvenile delinquency, but the FBI could. The FBI stopped kidnapping in a hurry when we thought that we had a brave new racket on our hands to fill the front pages for the rest of the century. The FBI said "Tut tut!" and kidnapping stopped pronto.

But your writers on juvenile delinquency blame whom? Why the schools, the churches, and the homes. That's all. I have taught in the schools for thirty years and I have never seen the day when the schools weren't doing everything permissible to save the boys from the jails. I have been a member of the Episcopal Church for most of a lifetime without seeing anything that the Church could do about crime except to tell the Congress to tell the FBI to stop it. And as for homes, do they not have homes in Canada, Scotland, Tasmania?

It is not cruel and long-drawn-out punishment that stops crime. We don't need to waste words on that. Then, what is it? It is the certainty of detection and the assurance of retribution. The FBI could provide both.

SYDNEY HILLYARD.

Los Gatos, Calif.

Grim Race for Survival

"Power and Policy: U. S. Foreign Policy and Military Power in the Hydrogen Age," by Thomas K. Finletter (Harcourt, Brace, 403 pp. \$5), presents the grim warnings and urgent prescriptions of the U. S. Secretary of Air during the Truman Administration. Below it is reviewed by Brigadier General S. L. A. Marshall, military critic of the Detroit News, author of "The River and the Gauntlet" and other books.

By S. L. A. Marshall

IN CONTRAST to other sages who write bright essays about either the foreign policy or military problem of the United States, the dour-faced man who served both as an Air Secretary and diplomat under Harry S. Truman does not take refuge in witty and airy generalizations. Thomas K. Finletter's propositions have sock. They are put with a bluntness which, in making his meaning clear as a pikestaff, mark him as a writer born and a scholar unafraid that history will prove him wrong.

How unusual and how refreshing!

And, unlike the earlier major prophets of the air age, Thomas K. Finletter was born for his time and thus spared the vice of extravagant claiming. Consider Douhet, Mitchell, and De Seversky. Today men credit

them with seeing the shape of things to come. It is generally forgotten that they did not envisage the atomic age, without which air power would still have a modest face, however immodest the shrill claims of its advocates.

Nuclear fission, winged or wingless, made the decisive difference. It would have changed the world and its wars even if carried in ox carts. After Hiroshima was shattered there was no longer good reason for either the novice or the military seer to doubt that Mars had a new master and the clash of field armies would not again be the main event in conflict between great powers: it is so much quicker and deadlier to send the package airmail. Thereafter the exploding of rival H-bombs became an exercise in anti-climax. Not until the horizon was blasted would the more obtuse soldiers and politicians see a tactical truth hanging like Dave Crockett's louse from their own eyebrows.

SO THERE is no call to credit Mr. Finletter with magic powers as a diviner. The case had been proved clear from White Sands to Cape Chaplin, where a Russian cataclysm wiped out a walrus colony. It remained only for someone to assemble the evidence and organize it in understandable terms so that modern man may take the measure of his days. There is point in his knowing whether sufficient time and wisdom remain to achieve the political control to restrain the terrible power come of his cleverness.

That is the task Mr. Finletter undertook. In "Power and Policy: U. S. Foreign Policy in the Hydrogen Age" he has not written a panegyric on air power. Rather, it is a study of American foreign policy against the background of an existing and rapidly shifting power (or weapons) equation which threatens World War III and an end to civilization. It was written while the author still had hopes that France would quit the pivot and by ratifying the European Defense Community partly offset the dismal result in Indo-China. That matters worked out otherwise but makes his forebodings more worthy of mark.

First, as to whether these hands are competent, it is my belief that Mr. Finletter has encompassed the problem and succeeded in stating it more fully and persuasively than any soldier or statesman of his time. It is a



THE AUTHOR: After executing a decade's worth of Government assignments Thomas K. Finletter, a serious, outspoken, versatile citizen who was asked by Washington to be, among other things, prophetic, is back at his old desk, practising international law. The international scene outside his Manhattan window these days is far different from what it was when he first became a Government employe back in 1941. It was then that Finletter, a member of a prominent Philadelphia legal family, left for Washington at Cordell Hull's bidding to serve as special assistant to the Secretary of State. Except for a break of a few years he was with the Government through 1953, working his way through a whole alphabet of departments—among others, the OFEC (Office of Foreign Economic Coordination), President Truman's APC (Air Policy Commission), and the ECA (Economic Cooperation Administration).

By 1950 he had been elevated to the post of Air Secretary, which he held until last year. Part of his grounding for that assignment was acquired as chairman of the five-man APC, which had the grim job of diagnosing the future. The APC's report—it was starkly entitled "Survival in the Air Age" and was issued in 1948—stressed the need for developing the Air Force's potential by 1953; the U.S., after that date, could no longer regard itself safe from A-bomb attack, it held. Finletter was born sixty years before the year circled in red in the APC document. He graduated with an LL. B. from Pennsylvania in 1920, the same year he married Walter Damrosch's daughter, Gretchen. He spent part of the next two decades writing on law, but he never got irretrievably lost among citations. Foreign affairs and politics also held his interest. Now back in legal harness, Finletter is a very busy fellow. The other morning his secretary received a call from someone who wanted to drop in for a chat with Mr. F. "Chat with him!" she exclaimed after hanging up. "I'd like to get a chance to chat with him myself." —BERNARD KALB.



—Scott Long, in The Minneapolis Tribune.

"The Crux of It."