

Days of Sunshine — Days of Rain. By Dean Frye. Illustrated by Roger Duvoisin. McGraw-Hill. 32 pp. \$2.95. *The Lamb and the Child* was an adaptation of the fifteenth-century *Second Shepherd's Play*. This one by the same author and artist is adapted from *Play of the Wether*, by John Heywood, and was probably first performed before King Henry VIII. It is a very early "weather report," in which Master Merry Report was sent by Jupiter to find out what the people considered the best weather. As you may suppose, the answers differed widely and amusingly. Dean Frye is assistant professor of English at McGill University, and he has told this as a story, but, with the aid of Roger Duvoisin's lively pictures and their own lively imagination, children can easily make their own play. Ages 6-10.

Jean Ritchie's Swapping Song Book. By Jean Ritchie. Preface by Oscar Brand. Photographs by George Pickow. Walck. 94 pp. \$3.75. Published in 1964, this delightful book of ballads from the Southern Appalachians should have an even better year in 1965, when the slogan for Children's Book Week is "Sing Out for Books." Not only should it be in every Appalachian school, but in homes and schools throughout the country.

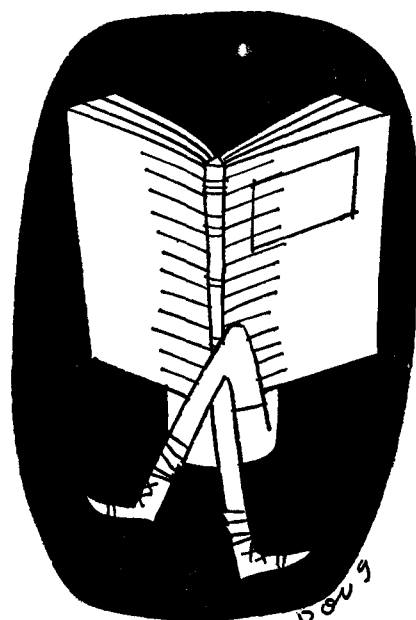
Hush little baby, don't say a word,
Papa's goin' to get you a talkin' bird;
One to whistle, one to sing,
One to holler Hi-lo-ding.

It is a beautifully made book, in which, preceding each song, the setting is described in text and handsome, well-produced photographs.

The New York Times describes Jean Ritchie as "one of the finest authentic traditional folk singers we have in the United States today. All ages.

Coming November 13

**SR's Children's Book
Week Supplement**



Global Safety

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in a classical sense, but another dreadful journey through the damnably undindexed 992 pages of the 1954 transcript should convince most careful readers he is right.

More recently the fashion seems to have turned to using the Oppenheimer story to exculpate other sinners who, God knows, stand in need of exculpation. Robert Junck's *Brighter Than a Thousand Suns* fosters the myth that German nuclear physicists frustrated their Nazi masters out of compunction for the fate of mankind—a feeble story, as Dr. Sam Goudsmit might testify. And now—in Europe—a dramatization of the

Hearings assailing Dr. Oppenheimer for much the same flaw of moral fortitude that Professor Chevalier discovers in his friend!

All this, it seems to this reviewer, is unseemly nonsense. None of the keys to Oppenheimer's character is missing from that ultimate invasion of privacy contained in the Hearings. And what of Haakon Chevalier, anyhow? The late H. L. Mencken once commented about an author that he mistook his own belly-aches for the cosmic urge. Many persons—including Oppenheimer's own brother—were hurt worse than Chevalier. But were they hurt by Oppenheimer? Was Chevalier hurt by Oppenheimer? Or was he hurt by George Eltenton? Or by his own indiscretion? Or by the malevolent ghost of the times?

The Fire of a Thousand Suns

Day of Trinity, by Lansing Lamont (Atheneum. 311 pp. \$6.95), *The Decision to Drop the Bomb*, by Len Giovannitti and Fred Freed (Coward-McCann. 348 pp. \$6), and *Atomic Diplomacy: Hiroshima and Potsdam*, by Gar Alperovitz (Simon & Schuster. 279 pp. \$7.50), review the preliminaries and the consequences of the event of two decades ago that introduced a new era. A social scientist, Kenneth W. Thompson is a former member of the University of Chicago and Northwestern University faculties.

By KENNETH W. THOMPSON

TWENTY years ago, before dawn on July 16, 1945, an explosion took place that to this day surpasses human imagination. The scene was a desert near Alamogordo, New Mexico; the scientists gathered there under the leadership of J. Robert Oppenheimer burrowed into the sand to await an uncertain result. When the experiment was over, the desert was aflame with "the radiance of a thousand suns," and nothing that could fly or crawl was left alive. It was, in President Harry Truman's words, "the greatest achievement of organized science in history." A group of supremely qualified men, including a few whose patriotism flagged, had labored for millions of man-hours and at a cost of \$2 billion to produce an explosion yielding, in a fraction of a millionth of a second, energy equivalent to 20,000 tons of TNT.

In *Day of Trinity* Lansing Lamont, *Time's* Washington correspondent, has

chronicled the dramatic event step by step, beginning in early 1945 and culminating on the sands of Trinity when a bell-shaped fireball rose in eight-tenths of a second to a height greater than the Empire State Building. The temperature at its center—lest men forget the brutal and terrible fact—"was four times that at the center of the sun and more than 10,000 times that at the sun's surface. The pressure, caving in the ground beneath, was over 100 billion atmospheres, the most ever to occur at the earth's surface. The radioactivity emitted was equal to one million times that of the world's total radium supply." The story, here constructed through interviews with more than 100 scientists and military officers, should be required reading, at regular intervals, throughout the civilized world.

No one can leave this account with a matter-of-fact attitude toward the nuclear age. Nor can he fail to perceive the significance of another event at Hiroshima three weeks later. Chadwick from England, Fermi from Italy, the Hungarians Teller and Szilard, the Germans Bethe and Kistiakowsky, and the Americans Oppenheimer, Hornig, Conant, and Bainbridge—the full weight of the international community of scientists—had been enlisted against elemental forces previously unmastered by man. The reader is prompted to ask what might be possible through similar concentration on disease and deprivation.

The Decision to Drop the Bomb traces in stark, factual terms the attitudes and convictions, expressed in their own words, of the leading participants in that fateful choice. Len Giovannitti and Fred Freed tell the story of the 117 days from

April 12, 1945, when President Harry S. Truman took office without knowledge of project S-1 (the code name for the bomb), to the morning of August 6, 1945, when a lethal strike unprecedented in history devastated Hiroshima. The book lays bare the thinking of Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson (the only Administration leader informed from the outset of all facets of the project), General George C. Marshall, Secretaries of State Edward Stettinius and James F. Byrnes, Acting Secretary of State Joseph Grew, Major General Leslie R. Groves, the over-all project director, and the scientists at Los Alamos and Chicago. It reveals the debates over the prospects for producing the bomb, the choice of targets for its use, its relation to military and diplomatic strategy, its role in ending the war, and its part in determining the shape of postwar international politics.

NO case study could be more illuminating of the powers of the Chief Executive, the essential limits of human knowledge and ability to read the future, the primacy of harsh and inescapable military decisions, and the interplay of personalities, some more determined and influential than others, within the government. The controversy over "unconditional surrender" is reviewed, as is the judgment of history on those who favored and those who opposed an attempt to end the war by giving assurances "that unconditional surrender would not mean the elimination of the present dynasty if the Japanese people desired its retention."

Stimson was appalled that so little anguish and concern were voiced over the morality of using the bomb. The Chicago scientists, led by Franck, Szilard, and Rabinowitch, were more outspoken than the Los Alamos group in opposing its use in the bombing of Japanese cities. In the end the decision rested primarily with policy-makers like Truman and Byrnes, whose preoccupation had been with domestic affairs. No treatise on civic and public responsibility could state so forcefully the need for superior, if not superhuman, qualities of wisdom and judgment in our national leaders. In the end, this is an account not of the clash between good and evil or wise and foolish men, but of limited human intelligence caught up in a terrible dilemma for which no wholly satisfactory solution was possible.

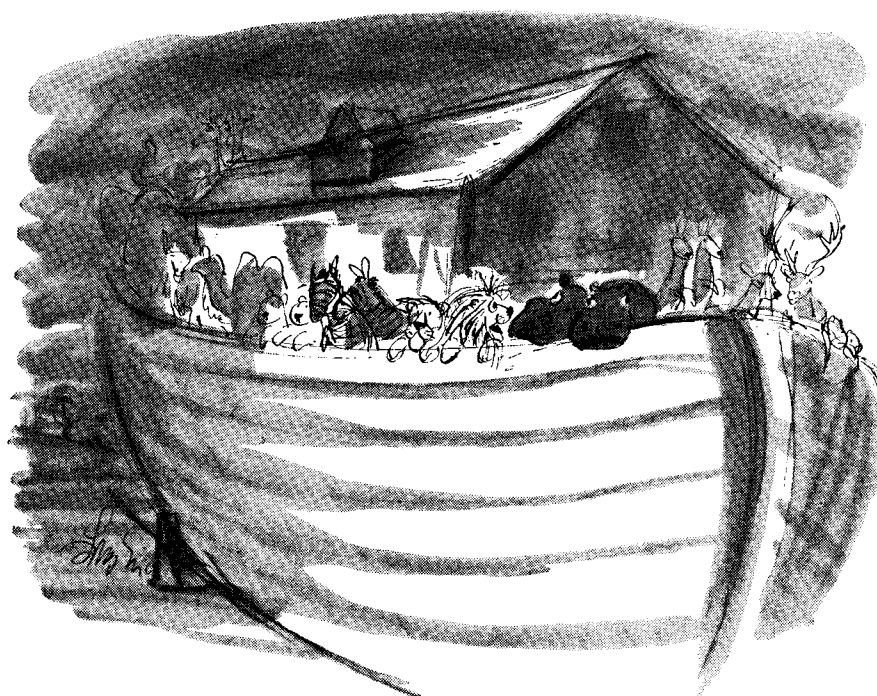
Atomic Diplomacy traces the interrelationship between force and diplomacy during the months from April to August 1945. Its rather too simple thesis is that the bomb was used not primarily to end the war with Japan, since the Japanese were already preparing to surrender, but as a "master card" in Soviet-American relations. Gar Alperovitz,

Fellow of Kings College, Cambridge, and legislative director to a United States Senator, sets out to prove that Stimson and Byrnes were primarily concerned with strengthening our over-all negotiating position through the bomb. He argues that the Potsdam Conference was delayed so that Churchill, Stalin, and Truman would not meet until the testing was completed: "Truman . . . twice postponed a face-to-face meeting with Stalin [but] in the end he committed himself to a meeting which was still a scant two weeks too early to be decisive." Perhaps the attempt at Potsdam to revise certain clauses in the Yalta Agreement and to diminish Russian hegemony in Eastern Europe failed because the supremacy of American atomic power was not yet evident to the Russians. It may also have failed because Poland, Rumania, and Bulgaria constituted vital interests of the Soviet Union. Alperovitz implies that Churchill and Roosevelt understood this while Truman and Byrnes did not, despite Stalin's repeated assertions that Poland was "a matter of life and death" and despite Rumania's position athwart the southwestern invasion route to Russia.

Alperovitz may well be wrong in his major thesis, but his book has merit on two counts. First, he pursues more relentlessly than any previous scholar all the evidence that can be mustered that the Truman-Byrnes foreign policy of firmness toward Russia rested on a single-minded assumption that the bomb would control postwar diplomacy, outweighing all other cards including some already given away.

Second, Alperovitz has fewer inhibitions in making explicit the interconnections between diplomacy and power. He cites approvingly Churchill's dictum "that a settlement must be reached on all major issues between the West and the East . . . before the armies of democracy melted. . . ." He quotes Assistant Secretary of State William Clayton's remark at the time of Yalta that "a large credit . . . appear[ed] to be the only concrete bargaining lever. . . ." He notes Harriman's view that "Only by keeping our military forces in being after Germany and Japan surrendered could we . . . compel the Soviet Union to withdraw from the territory it controlled. . . ." And to underscore the limits of atomic diplomacy, he observes the reactions to our efforts at liberalizing the Bulgarian government, when "mass meetings filled the streets of Sofia with defiant, repeated chants of 'We don't fear the atomic bomb.'"

Thus, while Alperovitz fails to prove that American policy-makers were deluded by the omnipotence of atomic diplomacy, his study is a timely reminder that successful diplomacy is always inseparable from "situations of strength." But "strength" is more than a single factor. It is a subtle blending of military and moral factors, including the whole armory of national power, a military present at strategic points, and national prestige. Finally, successful diplomacy calls for supreme wisdom in measuring the interests, capacity, and intentions of friend and foe as they appear along a changing front of circumstances and commitments.



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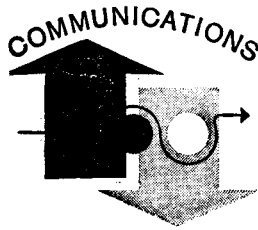
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A Diamond in the College Press

THE University of Michigan's famous *Daily* celebrates this week its seventy-fifth anniversary of distinguished publication. Perennially listed in anyone's rating of the top college newspapers, the *Michigan Daily* has won just about every honor in the field. Recently the *New York Times* commented that the *Daily*, along with three or four other outstanding college newspapers, provided a superb training ground for newsmen, often superior to the college journalism school. With that we heartily agree, from personal experience.

The paper's claim to "Seventy-five Years of Editorial Freedom" is, moreover, no idle boast, for the *Michigan Daily* is published as an autonomous unit with its own carefully designed building, a staff of eight professional printers, a rotary press, and some \$250,000 surplus in its bank account. While the University of Michigan buys a number of faculty and administrative subscriptions and in other ways gives the paper some sort of subsidy, the *Daily* can function—and has—without university support. Because of its unusual freedom from the normal yoke of faculty and administrative control, the Ann Arbor campus paper has developed a tradition of crusading and professionalism that probably accounts for the fact that only the Pulitzer journalism school at Columbia University can claim as impressive a list of journalistic alumni.

Besides normal campus coverage, the *Michigan Daily* specializes in live reporting of such off-campus news events as the Selma, Alabama, civil rights story and Presidential conventions. When the Michigan football team went to the Rose Bowl last New Year's, the newspaper sent staffers and photographers along for live daily coverage. The town of Ann Arbor also is served by this college press as its morning newspaper, which looks and acts in every way professional. David Boroff, writing in a recent *Saturday Review*, listed the college newspapers at Harvard, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Swarthmore as something more than bulletin boards, having become true reflectors and molders of student (and faculty) opinion.

The college newspaper in this country is a prolific and viable institution. More than 2,000 college papers will be published this fall, sometimes once a month, most often once a week, less frequently on a daily basis. Eighty-seven U.S. college papers are published three times a week or oftener, and sixty go to press at least four times a week and so are listed as "daily." Some of the great state university newspapers, like Michigan's, are published on Sundays, too.

Of the 5,000,000 men and women in college this fall, four-fifths will be served by college papers of sufficient standing to carry national advertising. In fact the business is now so big that College Publishers' Representatives, Inc., just off Madison Avenue, does an enormous trade as a unified national advertising service for close to 900 college newspapers representing a circulation above 3,500,000 students and faculty. Another organization involved with this proliferating journalistic form is the Associated Collegiate Press, which makes its headquarters at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis

