

Saturday Review

Editor: NORMAN COUSINS
Publisher: J. R. COMINSKY

Associate Editors: HARRISON SMITH, IRVING KOLODIN, HORACE SUTTON

Associate Publisher
W. D. PATTERSON

Managing Editor
RICHARD L. TOBIN

Science Editor
JOHN LEAR

Poetry Editor
JOHN CIARDI

Education Editor
JAMES CASS

Production Manager
PEARL S. SULLIVAN

Book Review Editor
ROCHELLE GIRON

General Editor
HALLOWELL BOWSER

Feature Editor
ALFRED BALK



Editors-at-Large

CLEVELAND AMORY • HARRISON BROWN • JOHN MASON BROWN
FRANK G. JENNINGS • JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH • ELMO ROPER
THEODORE C. SORENSEN • PAUL WOODRING

Contributing Editors

HOLLIS ALPERT • ALICE DALGLIESH • HENRY HEWES
GRANVILLE HICKS • ARTHUR KNIGHT • KATHARINE KUH
MARTIN LEVIN • ROLLENE W. SAAL • ROBERT LEWIS SHAYON
MARGARET R. WEISS • JOHN T. WINTERICH

Sharing the Seas' Riches

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The author of the following guest editorial is chairman of the Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, a research affiliate of the United Nations Association of the U.S.A.*

“UNDER NO circumstances, we believe, must we ever allow the prospects of rich harvest and mineral wealth to create a new form of colonial competition among the maritime nations. We must be careful to avoid a race to grab and to hold the lands under the high seas. We must ensure that the deep seas and the ocean bottoms are, and remain, the legacy of all human beings.”

These words, uttered by President Johnson on July 13, may be among the most historic of his administration. At stake is five-sevenths of the earth's surface, a vast, unknown area that suddenly could become the prize of a great power struggle.

The voices of power are already being raised. A Soviet scientist said recently: “The nation that first learns to live under the seas will control them and the nation that controls the seas will control the world.” And a distinguished American oceanographer said: “The capability of occupying a piece of the deep-sea bed would . . . make the placement of colonies on Antarctica, or even on the moon, pale by comparison.”

There comes a moment in history when there is an overwhelming desire or need to penetrate a new frontier. For

centuries, man worshipped or feared the celestial bodies. Suddenly, he decided that he must explore them. President Kennedy's proposals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1961 prevented a power struggle to annex celestial bodies; it saved the world from the danger of armed outer-space navies.

FOR thousands of years, the sea has been a means of communication and warfare, but man has known very little about its depths. Suddenly, there is an overwhelming desire and need to conquer the sea. A considerable part of the world's population is hungry. But within thirty-five years this population will have doubled to 7 billion. It must turn to the vast protein resources of the sea to supplement its food production. As the President points out, so far man has been a hunter for these resources. Now he must be a farmer, preserving and developing them through world co-operation.

Although most of the seas' mineral resources are being explored on the Continental Shelf, untold riches are to be found beyond. As *The New York Times* states, more than 600 companies now are involved in one way or another in probing for the earth's riches.

It was significant that the President made the speech quoted here shortly after he signed the bill entitled, “The Marine Resources and the Engineering Development Act of 1966.” This act

establishes two bodies: a National Cabinet Council on Marine Resources under the chairmanship of the Vice President, and a national commission to be composed of fifteen citizens drawn from government, industry, and the academic and technical world. These bodies are to recommend an overall plan for an adequate national oceanographic program. So urgent is the need that the commission is charged with producing its report within eighteen months, and the President has asked the Cabinet Council to make preliminary recommendations before the next session of Congress. The President's speech should go far in determining the approach and the philosophy of these two bodies.

THE world will not permit a political vacuum. If the resources of the sea are the common property of mankind, machinery must be set up for their orderly exploitation for the benefit of mankind. The President's Scientific Advisory Committee reported that “a cooperative international effort to develop marine resources for the benefit of all humanity seems both logical and appealing.”

Here is the challenge to the United Nations. It is essential that it proceed immediately to develop the institutional means for such a program to benefit all humanity. The article, “The Promise of the Seas' Bounty” [SR, June 18], urged the establishment of a U.N. specialized agency giving adequate representation to nations with the greatest capability and interests. It proposed that from this program the United Nations have a source of income to be used for a vastly expanded program for the underdeveloped countries.

Developing the resources of the frontier of the sea must not be accompanied by a military race to arm the sea. Daily, there is wide speculation as to the possibility of the two great powers' burying missiles in the sea bed. The nations have agreed by General Assembly resolution and now by treaty that they would not place atomic weapons on space ships. Some similar agreement is needed to prevent a fantastic and costly arms race in the deep sea.

While the Cabinet Committee is forming our nation's program, the United Nations should be formulating the world program. Indeed, the next General Assembly might well announce a set of principles along the line of President Johnson's speech and establish a commission to develop a program for the implementation of these principles.

If President Johnson would make this challenge to the next General Assembly, he would assure that this last earth frontier, the sea—five-sevenths of the earth's surface—would remain the legacy of all human beings.

—CLARK M. EICHELBERGER.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Assessing the Computer

WITH A GREAT DEAL of enthusiasm I have just finished devouring your issue of July 23 devoted to "The New Computerized Age." I definitely concur with the generally optimistic tone of your articles.

However, there is one point that I believe you omitted. The computer has become undoubtedly a status symbol. Witness its use at Stanford University to interpret diplomatic notes. . . . In business so many computers have been installed that, in many cases, the businesses have had to invent problems for their computers to solve.

DON J. DEVORETZ.

Madison, Wisc.

THIS WEEK duplicate copies of the issue of *SR* featuring "The New Computerized Age" arrived in the same mail. It's worth a thousand words.

ARTHUR P. STOLIAR.

New York, N.Y.

WHEN I READ N.C.'s wonderful editorial, "The Computer and the Poet," one person came immediately to mind—Ray Bradbury. Few sensitive readers will deny the fact that Bradbury is every bit as much a prose poet as Thomas Wolfe. N.C. asks for a poet relating to the amorality of machines. The author of *Fahrenheit 451* and *The Martian Chronicles* is just this.

J. GEOFFREY JONES.

White Creek, N.Y.

N.C.'s EDITORIAL, "The Computer and the Poet," is itself a poem. Writing about the merit of poetry, Voltaire put it this way: ". . . it says more, and in fewer words, than prose." After reading the editorial several times, I also recalled a long-forgotten observation from Plato: "Poetry comes nearer to truth than history."

EDWARD H. DARE.

Glenbrook, Conn.

THE ARTICLE by Vernon F. Miller predicting that the "combination of mass media with the potential of computerized response" would bring about a rebirth of the town meeting displays a remarkable degree of disregard for the deliberative processes. Mr. Miller apparently believes that considered, judicious opinion can be . . . elicited in an appropriately Pavlovian situation. . . .

Isn't it possible that the decline in all kinds of "opposition" opinion is the result of a too-thorough mixing of the sort he suggests? Mass media have already exposed very many varieties of thought to vast audiences, but the result in most instances does not seem to be a great flourishing of debate.

JANE PHILLIPS PACKARD.

Chapel Hill, N.C.

THE FOOTNOTE to John Diebold's article, "The New World Coming," credits Mr. Diebold with coining the term, "automation." But L. Landon Goodman, in his book, *Man and Automation*, says that the word



H. Martin

"Miss Frenston, send in a deal. I feel like wheelin'."

"automation" was first used in 1936 by D. S. Harder, vice president of manufacturing of Ford Motor Company. He created the term when he worked with GM and defined it then as "the automatic handling of parts between progressive production processes."

R. S. FETTERS.

Washington, D.C.

An M.P. Remembers Adlai

I was delighted to read Elmo Roper's article about Adlai Stevenson in your July 9 issue and I am sure it is worthwhile reminding the world that idealists are amongst the most practical of men.

MARTIN MADDAN, M.P.

London, England.

Our Endangered Landmarks

I WAS PLEASED to read Alfred Balk's editorial, "Our Embattled Landmarks" [*SR*, June 25]. Here in Illinois, we have formed an Executive Mansion Commission to make proposals necessary to remodel and rehabilitate the Governor's Mansion, the fifth oldest in the nation and the oldest by far in the Midwest. The members of the Commission are unanimously of the opinion that in our rush into the future we must not lose the links we have with the past.

PAUL F. ELWARD,
House Majority Whip,
Illinois General Assembly.

Springfield, Ill.

Between Laughter and Tears

I WAS especially interested in Professor Feibleman's thoughts on comedy as quoted by John Fuller in *TRADE WINDS* [*SR*, July 16]. While Mr. Feibleman's assertion that every comedian is a philosopher may be true, I do not think it goes far enough in explaining humor. In my opinion, the fundamental cause of both comedy and tragedy is a broken pattern. The difference between the two is the duration of the break.

To use one of Professor Feibleman's own examples, when a man on a stage slips on a banana peel we laugh because we know that the break in his pattern is of short duration. However, should the audience suddenly realize that the clown has broken his leg, the situation would lose its humor and become tragic. The audience would react to its knowledge that the break in the clown's pattern is to be of longer duration.

GUSTAV ZELLER, III.

Boston, Mass.

Those Reasonable British

MAURICE ZOLOTOW's criticism of British driving habits [*BOOKED FOR TRAVEL*, July 23] is based on a series of misapprehensions. It is a well-known and scientifically attested fact that driving habits are an index of national character. It is, therefore, impossible that the British should be wild drivers. Mr. Zolotow should try driving in Italy, land of volatility, where the real maniacs reside.

GEORGE E. WELLWARTH.

University Park, Penn.