

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Republican Record

Editor—For the past several weeks I have been campaigning throughout California talking to Republicans from the Redwood Region to the Mexican border. The greatest satisfaction any public servant can have is the confidence and faith of the people he represents, and I have felt richly rewarded during these weeks by the warm expressions of confidence and faith wherever I have been.

Throughout the campaign, I have tried to talk sense to the people of California. I have laid my record and my views before the people, for I have a good record as a United States Senator and as a Republican.

I believe I will be renominated Tuesday and go on to victory in November.

In politics, as in war, the first casualty is truth. My record has been distorted and falsified in this campaign by those who oppose me. I have been in the public service most of my adult lifetime. My record is an open book. I have faith that my fellow Republicans can discern the truth. My Republican colleagues in the Senate know my record and respect it. That is why they elected me, for ten years, Assistant Republican leader of the United States Senate.

Our Republican party has never had a greater challenge for service to the American people. I believe our party will accept the challenge. The party of Lincoln and Eisenhower, in the White House and the Congress, will win in November. It must provide new and vigorous leadership to our free way of life.

Every Republican voter in California should go to the polls tomorrow. The right to vote is the most precious right of citizenship in this Republic. A large Republican vote will testify to the strength and to the high principles of our party.

Perhaps no group of men come to know the virtues and vices of public servants as do the members of America's free press. I owe a special debt of gratitude to the many newspapers in the State which have endorsed my candida-

cy. I give my unbounded thanks to the thousands of volunteer Republicans who have carefully studied my record, and who are unselfishly laboring for my renomination.

For almost one-third of a century, I have received the faith of the people at the ballot box. I have kept their faith. I know of no other way to chart an honest course in serving the best interests of my country and of my party.

THOMAS H. KUCHEL,
U. S. Senator.

San Francisco

'Don't Block That View'

Editor — I am amazed and shocked at The Chronicle's recommendation against Proposition C. In taking this stand, The Chronicle is urging San Franciscans to let their view of the ocean and beach be blocked in and around the Cliff House. To the visitor and citizen alike, this view characterizes San Francisco and much that it means.

The rocks and beach here constitute open space, as well as a classic view. Twelve and a half acres of open space, as well as the Cliff House and the site of the Sutro Baths, will be saved by Proposition C.

We have taken this area for granted in the past, never bothering to buy it. The cost is high, but it will be as good an investment as we could make. If we do not buy it, our children will not like it when they find their way to the area, and their view of it, blocked—and neither will we.

The bond issue for Proposition C can be retired from state sales tax receipts which are returned to the city and will entail no increase in the city's tax rate. In addition, almost half the cost may be met by a federal open space grant.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.,
Chairman,

Committee for Prop. C.
San Francisco.

'Yes on Parks'

Editor—In Hunters Point-Bayview where thousands of us live,

there are no recreational or cultural facilities. There is no playfield for baseball or football. In fact, there is no park at all. Not even a mini-park or a tot-lot.

Proposition B would finally get us such parks that we desperately need. Parks that other parts of the city have.

We hope all of San Francisco will help us tomorrow by voting for Proposition B.

Please—we like to think of ourselves as part of San Francisco too.

MRS. IZOLA FRIERSON,
Chairman,
Hunters Point-Bayview
Community Coordinating
Council.

San Francisco.

'Give Us a Choice'

Editor — Unless Robert Kennedy now retires from the California primary and urges his followers to support Eugene McCarthy he will merely assure the nomination of Hubert Humphrey, thus depriving the American people of a choice between a continuation of past policies at home and abroad and a new constructive approach to foreign and domestic affairs. McCarthy single-handedly has brought such a choice within the realm of possibility. Has he not in fairness and common sense, earned the right to carry through against Humphrey in August and Nixon in November with the wholehearted support of all Americans who see the need of a basic re-orientation of their nation's policy?

JAMES P. WARBURG,
Greenwich, Conn.

A Song For Willie

Editor—Why doesn't somebody promote a song about Willie Mays? There is a song about Davy Crockett, and there are songs about other folk heroes. Willie Mays belongs to the young people, black and white — he is their hero, and they should have a song about him, so they can sing about a good person, like Willie Mays.

SARAH WASHINGTON,
San Francisco.

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Mon., June 3, 1968

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rich Candidates

Editor—The following news items, if true, cause me to think twice about the democratic process: a Savings and Loan executive in Oregon has raised \$350,000 for non-candidate Reagan's campaign; Max Rafferty has asked for and apparently received \$500,000 in out of state money in his bid for the Republican nomination; Kennedy spent \$700,000 in Indiana, at least I hope it was his own money; an unknown real estate operator in Los Angeles has shoveled tons of money into Reagan's campaign for governor; the late Walt Disney came through with a fortune for Senator Murphy, etc

All of this strikes me as a true subversion of the democratic process. Where does it leave a poor man with integrity, ability and no money?

ARMOND EMANUEL

San Francisco

Recreation Bond Issue

Editor—The Chronicle's recommendation and editorial comments regarding the Recreation and Park Bond issue leaves out some pertinent facts

Year after year, modest capital improvements are included in the budget submitted by the Department to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors and these items are chopped out of the budget. This year is a good example. The requested budget was \$14,954,227; it was reduced to \$11,952,352

The amount of all the projects in the bond issue that cost less than \$200,000 total \$1,545,000, or approximately 10 per cent of the total bond issue. Four of these projects are located in Golden Gate Park. What you call an expensive grab bag is really a comprehensive community program. At stake are critically needed recreational facilities for Hunters Point-Bayview, seven new neighborhood recreation buildings and the enlargement of three others

We feel the conversion of

Fleishhacker Pool to an indoor pool is easily justified. The pool, in its present state, as everyone knows, is a white elephant. The location has ample space for parking and will also serve the outer Sunset as a recreational facility. To locate a fifty-meter pool downtown would seriously restrict its availability to the residents of the city and would be a questionable expenditure.

The fact of the matter is that the kids of San Francisco are missing out on a great competitive sport because the city lacks the facilities to develop competitive swimmers. A fifty-meter enclosed swimming pool, equipped for spectator events, will make it possible to hold great national competitions in San Francisco.

It's regrettable that The Chronicle chose to oppose this bond issue at such a late date. It was placed on the ballot with the unanimous approval of the Board of Supervisors. If there were any serious reservations about Proposition B they should have been resolved before the bond issue was placed on the ballot.

WALTER H. SHORENSTEIN,
President,
Recreation and Park
Commission.

San Francisco

The Chronicle recommends a no vote on Proposition B, not because we object to improving recreation and park facilities in San Francisco, but because too many of the proposed improvements are unjustifiably expensive. Moreover, resulting maintenance and operating costs would be nearly \$1 million a year.—Editor.

Alameda's Prop. B

Editor—The recent letter signed by Alameda County Judges Lewis E. Lercara and Cecil Mosbacher, pertaining to Measure B appearing on today's ballot in Alameda county, contained several misleading statements which I believe require an answer.

There is no intent on the part of Alameda County Taxpayers Asso-

ciation's endorsement to infer that it is necessarily an economy measure. As a matter of fact this association is also directly concerned with efficiency in the administration of public business

It should be made clear that the Appellate Court decision did not state what it believes to be the best way to select and appoint a Probation officer—merely interprets, to the best of its ability, the language as written into the 1927 County Charter.

The Civil Service Commission is not trying to "muscle into" the affairs of Courts. If Proposition B passes, it will not take away the right of the Juvenile Court Judge (Supreme Court Judges) to make the appointment of the Probation officer. Civil Service will certify a list of qualified candidates which meet established standards after an open competitive examination. The judges still have the authority to appoint an individual off this list or, if they prefer, all candidates can be turned down and another list prepared. Any way one looks at it, the judges retain the final say. (The Probation Officer could even be fired after appointment through normal Civil Service procedures.)

What this amendment will do, which is not required under present language, is guarantee minimum standards and qualifications be established on a permanent basis and not at the whim of the judges who happen to be in office at the time of a vacancy.

Do not lose sight of the fact that upwards of 80 per cent or more of the Probation Officer's time is spent in administrative functions and not in court functions. Civil Service establishes standards and screens all other non-elected top administrators in the county. There is no logical reason why it should not have the authority to prepare the list for the Probation Officer also.

EDOUARD B. MCKNIGHT,
Executive Secretary,
Alameda Co. Taxpayers Assn.
Oakland.

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Tuesday, June 4, 1968

Roy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Visitor's View of France

Editor—I have just returned from a 10-day stay in Paris and I brought with me several numbers of *Le Monde*, *Le Figaro*, *L'Express* and *France Soir*. They were hard to get. As everyone knows, or should know, the French press is not tender toward de Gaulle. *L'Express* in particular is very anti de Gaulle, being a socialist paper. It is hard, therefore, to doubt their analysis.

From reading those papers two main trends become very clear. First, through their violent rebellion against an archaic University, the French youths expressed a complete rejection of a certain form of civilization. Which one?

Le Figaro of May 22, a conservative paper, with an article by Max Lacamp and Andre Campana, gives the answer: After the Algerian war, say the writers, the young saw only two forms of civilizations for them to choose from: the American civilization based on the idea of abundance of goods, of success through money and therefore power, and the Russian civilization making slowly the same ideals its goals through force and lack of freedom. French youth thirsted for something new for humanity. The University with its anti-democratic attitude, its insistence on abundance of knowledge exacted for the passing of difficult examinations which frequently led nowhere, its lack of friendship between professors and students, offered nothing to encourage the birth of a new life, rich in human values. The incident of Nanterre launched by several small groups of Maoists, Guevarists and noisy anarchists was like a match put to a huge pile of dry wood.

That de Gaulle was guilty of following the same ideal of abundance and power for his country is true. He had at least the excuse of trying to put back on its feet a country ruined by two wars and to free it from a United States generosity which has become very oppressive.

Other articles underline the

same problem. Jean Vaugle in *Le Monde*: "What is the use of a policy which tended to liberate us from American influence, if in the same time it implants in France a subculture inspired by America, with its false values and its modes of thinking?"

The rebellions in the American universities are too poignant to try to deny the similarities of the malaise of the two countries: the source of unhappiness of the young in both France and America is the same and it was born here.

The second trend, which is made clear in *L'Express* in particular, is that the Communist party becomes daily more disturbed by the importance of the youth movement in France.

The Communists realized that brilliant scholars, following the example of the "pretres ouvriers" began to enter the ranks of the workers, teaching them a new ideal. They saw that the Renault factories decided to strike without any order from the leaders of the Communist-led General Confederation of Workers. They were losing their grip over their followers: they decided to strike fast.

This is why the leaders of the CGT and CFDT declared a general strike. The leaders of the youth movement wanted only a 24-hour strike, but their wishes were discarded.

The students are aware they are not liked by the Communists. *L'Humanite*, the Communist newspaper, said, in speaking of the students, "Let us unmask the faked revolutionaries." And when the students went to talk to the workers striking in the Renault factories, they found the doors closed to them. But the students will join the Communists to bring down the de Gaulle regime.

France Soir analyzed the Communist position very clearly: they will not risk a brutal repression of the government encouraged by a frightened country. They would be kicked back into obscurity. There-

fore they will operate through legal means—elections.

The socialists under Mitterand have signed an uneasy alliance with the Communists for voting purposes, and it is the Communists who are in the driver's seat now.

General de Gaulle warned the country of the danger. De Gaulle is right, he is to be admired.

The picture of the pro de Gaulle demonstration in *The Chronicle* May 30 show that many approve his stand even if they do not approve all his past policy. They show that France is not only formed of angry students, no matter how just their anger may be. France is formed by workers who were forced to strike against their best judgment, by modest families who are impoverished by the strike, by millions of citizens who believe that a nation cannot solve deep problems by violence.

If some weak stomachs cannot stand the word "chienlit" used by de Gaulle to describe the ghastly carnival of death that the world witnessed in Paris for the last two weeks . . . I will accept it, to show my indignation at seeing a noble city defaced, a whole country deeply wounded by an incredible violence, behind which hides a deadly purpose of supremacy by a group, which, if it comes to power, will make the authoritarian manner of de Gaulle look mild indeed.

GERMAINE R. THOMPSON
San Francisco.

The writer is president of the Alliance Francaise, and KQED-TV's French expert on its World Press review—Editor

That Special Report

Editor—I was extremely pleased to read your first report on the Black Panther's version of the shooting of Bobby Hutton. It seems clear that there are interesting facts in the case which have not been publicized.

DALE PETERSON.
Woodside.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BART and Berkeley

Editor—The article in the May 19 This World entitled "Berkeley: Another Beating" was interesting reading. Therefore, it is regrettable that a portion of it is neither the truth nor good reporting: "Now he insisted it would be too expensive to underground the station — and accepted the estimates of the BART engineers he had derided only a year before. (However, Johnson persuaded BART to change a similarly-designed northern station, in a mostly white area, to virtually all underground)"

My advocacy of the design of the Ashby station is based upon architectural nicety. In no case have I accepted the estimate of the BART engineers for the lowering of this station. As a matter of fact, I feel their estimates are too high on this, as well as other estimates of his kind in which they have a subjective interest. The implication in the second sentence quoted above that there was a racial implication in the design of the north station is both untrue and absurd

WALLACE JOHNSON
Mayor

Berkeley

American Opera

Editor—After reading Robert Commanday's May 28 column, I just had to pause a moment in my work, which is linotype operator, and take this opportunity to ask him to keep the ball rolling for American Opera in America by and for Americans.

With ten seasons of San Francisco opera chorus work behind me and experience with people mentioned in his column, I would like to add my voice, old and worn as it may be, to those of Miss Kirkpatrick, a good performer, and Miss Sylvia Davis (who last year worked as many as ten and twelve days with no break), and the other hard working members of WOT with guts enough to speak up.

When I started in opera before World War II, there were very few opportunities for young singers in

America. When I returned from the Pacific it wasn't much better. Maybe now, with WOT, our American performers won't have to go to Europe. Let's give them hope. Let's keep WOT American. Let's not make it just another vehicle for the Hagers and the European singers. They have more than enough dominating the fall opera. Ask those of us who have worked with them.

Please help us show up the waste, the inequalities, the brow-beatings, lack of respect for our talents and efforts and other conditions that may work in situations where they have full time singers and choruses but not with people who must hold another job to make a living and take time away from family and job for rehearsals and certainly do not deserve this manner of treatment

Again, thanks to Mr. Commanday for the many times he has complimented us and the many times he has roasted us — we deserved it, maybe.

JOSEPH A CIAMPI
Concord

An Affront

Editor—Please bear with the stationery and handwriting. I come to praise you, not to bury you

I'm referring to that column on Mother's Day by Mac of the hard-hat. Now that he has given the ball a boot, let's keep it rolling. This day that has been set aside for our observance is an affront to every intelligent man and woman. And to think that it's a billion-dollar business.

CLYDE RINGEL
Walnut Creek

'Hard Facts'

Editor — The United States should face the following facts:

1. The Communist leaders of North Vietnam (and China) do not want peace, and they plan to continue the fighting and invasion in South Vietnam, in Laos, in Thai-

land, and in Cambodia, regardless of what is said or done at the Paris meetings.

2. They will sign anything and promise anything at Paris which they believe will give them some advantage, but without the slightest intention of complying with any treaty or keeping any promise that does not produce some advantage for them.

3. They are rushing men and materials into and around South Vietnam at an increased rate and are snickering at our gullibility. They respect only one thing and that is force.

Our next move, whatever it may be, should be based upon earnest consideration of these hard facts, and not upon wishful thinking

R C. BRIGGS
Palo Alto

Lord Byron Revisited

Editor—Mayor Alioto recently suggested that the readers of poetry on City Hall steps try reading some more traditional poets, such as Byron and Edna St. Vincent Millay. I endorse Byron, especially passages like the following, which could be read with profit at the opening of each session of the Board of Permit Appeals as well as on City Hall steps:

"Hath it indeed been plundered, or but cleared?—Alas! Developed, opens the decay—When the colossal fabric's form is neared:—It will not bear the brightness of the day . . ."

The above is from Childe Harold's Pilgrimage, Canto IV, stanza 143, ll. 1284-6.

ROBERT TRACY
Berkeley

Two Cents on Four Bits

Editor—The half dollar is not a functioning coin and the government should stop minting it. It no longer fits any coin machine, is heavy and awkward and the silver in it could be put to better use.

MARTY ELLIS
San Francisco



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another Day, Another Bullet

Editor — Another Kennedy is dead from an assassin's bullet.

In a nation where "Bonnie and Clyde" came close to the Academy Award, and violence on the screen is virulent, what can we expect?

MRS. BETTE PFORR.

San Carlos



Editor — Senator Kennedy's death has been the catalyst for an amazing, yet very predictable reaction by the people of the United States. The shock, amazement, and outrage came on cue, in that order. President Johnson spoke for us all as he pleaded to stop violence and live under the law.

As a hesitant member of that

segment of our society required by law to be attuned to living in an atmosphere of violence, the military, I am somewhat more aware of the consequences of violence as these affect my life daily.

The man on the street is shocked by Senator Kennedy's death. Why? The Senator was in a position to affect all our lives. Yet more than 400 lives wasted last week in Southeast Asia prompted no one to be shocked by the outrage of legalized mass murder.

The 400 deaths are 400 times more shocking than one death simply by mathematical calculation. Violent death was no different for these 400. It has a tendency to disregard race, color, creed,

and economic or political standing.

President Johnson wants to outlaw violence for you. For me it shall continue. You condone my living in a violent world, yet are shocked when you are even emotionally involved.

My reaction is probably adverse to many people, especially my "superiors," but at least it is honest. We should legalize violence in our own streets if we aid and support it elsewhere.

A little honesty would do wonders for our "sick society." A double standard for death is a strange way to live.

WELLES B. GOODRICH, A1C.
Travis AFB

San Francisco Chronicle
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Emerald Carpet

Editor—The giant forest shields an emerald carpet.

A carefully placed foot meets soft resilience. A world of its own, this starry carpet extends in all directions and where it meets the moving water becomes especially profuse with ferns. Heart-shaped three-leaved oxalis mingles lavender flowers with lemon-yellow violets. Frail sugar scoop, starflower, wake-robin, rare orchids, fairy lantern and others create a flower formation come down from the Pleistocene and surviving only by association with tall companions.

A pool of sunlight radiating green-gold has caused the oxalis to fold its leaves. Vision follows the luminous shaft to the valuted ceiling, reaching over three hundred feet toward a window of cobalt blue.

WALTER RIVERS.

Larkspur

The New Puritanism

Editor—In response to George Stanley's observations about what you title the "metaphysics of joy" (Letters, May 29) it may be desirable to clarify the issue.

Nietzsche pointed out that certain forms of protest, like certain forms of art, spring fundamentally from romantic pessimism. A man who is frustrated and resentful of life may take out his personal grief ~~varies~~ by projecting them upon the world in general or upon some chosen scapegoat. This is a common root of racism as well as anarchism, as Sartre points out in his analysis of antisemitism. Sartre concludes that the antisemite "is a man who is afraid. Not of the Jews of course, but of himself, of his conscience, his freedom, of his instincts, of his responsibilities, of solitude, of change, of society and the world, of everything except the Jews." The Jew is only a pretext; elsewhere it will be the Negro, the yellow race. Antisemitism, in a word, is fear of man's fate. The antisemite is the man

who wants to be pitiless stone, furious torrent, devastating lightning, in short, everything except a man." Such romantic, nihilistic, self-dramatizing is becoming more and more evident among certain of the new radicals. Their resentment happens to be directed against the "establishment" but it might just as well have been directed against the Negroes or the Communists, or any other convenient object of hatred.

The radicalism of the late C. Wright Mills stands in sharp contrast. Mills, a bitter critic of American institutions, was also critical of Marxism. He saw it as the mission of the new left intellectuals to work out a new positive "ideology" of society and social change to guide the rebuilding of society. I respect this kind of approach, but Mills' challenge has not been taken up. Instead, we have gotten an increasingly negativistic attitude, colored by vaguely utopian talk about "participatory democracy" as if that were somehow a cure for all human ills. To me, such a view is just as empty as a blind "metaphysics of joy" would be, and it is much more dangerous because of its underlying kinship to one form of the racist outlook, which is surely today's most pressing evil.

What I was attacking in the passage quoted in your editorial of May 21 was the prevailing view that any form of gaiety or joy in human existence represents a kind of treason against the "tragic sense of life" which alone does justice to the human situation. As Professor Bishop points out in the May issue of Harper's, the new left seems to be falling into a new kind of puritanism typified by a narrow and bleak view of human existence, and an urge toward relentless persecution of all who differ. I hasten to add that this applies to the extremists, not to the majority of students who have legitimate complaints and a constructive interest in achieving needed reforms.

PHILIP H. RHINELANDER
Stanford

Music to the Ears

Editor:—I must comment on Robert Commanday's column "The Pollution of the Air Waves," of June 4.

In denouncing contemporary music styles he is obviously screaming sour apples. He's as biased a classical music enthusiast as Ernest Tubb is country and western. Should the life work of all musicians, writers and composers be to replay the works of composers of centuries ago, or should each attempt to compose the music he feels within himself? That has been the plight of musicians for centuries.

The staff of the new KSAN has made it possible for writers to have their compositions heard. Today's musicians are composing what they feel, and it's obvious from the station ratings that this "underground rock", as Commanday calls it, is being appreciated by many thousands of people who want to hear sincerity of composition as portrayed in this type of radio, rather than stagnancy.

GUS GOSSERT

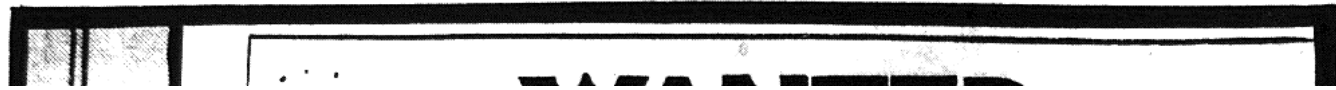
San Francisco

'You're Inconsistent'

Editor—I am appalled at your inconsistency. In reading over your list of recommendations for the recent primary, you recommended a no vote on the retired city employees because you say the whole retirement system should be overhauled. I agree with that but, then you turn around and recommend a yes for the police and fire department pensions because of various reasons. If one group should receive better pensions the other should also.

After nearly 20 years of service I only get \$102.98 a month and I am nearly 76 years of age. I'm beginning to think you figure all of us very old people will die off soon anyway so why bother.

GLADY S. JAMES
San Francisco



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Peace Talks

Editor — Would it be unpatriotic to state the following simple fact? The North Vietnamese stated that they would be willing to discuss peace if we stopped the bombing. They meant what they said. We have not stopped the bombing. Why then do we expect anything from the Paris peace talks?

MORGAN SIXTINE

San Francisco

'Third-Rate'

Editor — What is Western Opera Theater going to be like next year? It's going to be another third-rate European opera company suffocating in senseless tradition and ululating incomprehensibly to a handful of bored socialites. Congratulations, Mr. Adler.

JOSEFA HEIFETZ

Mill Valley

Election Returns

Editor — Your editorial of June 7 "The Source of Rafferty's Vote" states that Mr. Rafferty owes his success to a horde of ultra-conservative immigrants. May I ask on what sampling of the voting public you based this conclusion?

I was born in California, have lived here all my life and I voted for Senator Kuchel in 1962. I voted for him with the hope that he would contribute somewhat to a restraint on the runaway socialism of the Kennedy administration. However, a review of the Senator's voting record reveals that I would have been just as well represented had I voted for his Democratic opponent.

May I suggest that an "in depth" sampling of the voting public might well reveal that Mr. Rafferty owes his success to concerned California residents who are fed up with the Kennedy-Johnson liberalism binge with its inherent fiscal irresponsibility, lawlessness, pampering of the criminal element and welfare free-loader and total disregard for the

rights and well being of the working taxpayer without whom the country could not exist much less prosper.

PAUL A. SCOTT

San Francisco

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Editor — The message of your June 7 editorial is crystal clear — the people of Northern California and Southern California no longer have enough in common to unite them as a state, and the time has come to reactivate the proposal for partitioning California into two separate states. The citizens of South California would be appropriately represented in the Senate by Mr. Murphy and their new hero Mr. Rafferty, and I suspect that most North Californians would be willing to contribute Ronald Reagan to serve.

A. C. PACKENHAM

Walnut Creek

'Our Land'

Editor — Once again my world has been shattered in remorse and shame. An assassin's bullets have tried to destroy a great man's ideals by taking his life. He was my friend. He was the black people's friend. I am a black woman.

Senator Kennedy, I thought, was a good man, a compassionate man, a congenial man. A man in many walks of life. He was strong, courageous and willful; but best of all, he was himself.

He once told me that he would never forget me, because of my unique name. He said that if ever he heard it again, my image would come to mind. He also said that he thought I was an admirable young lady and to please get a good education. After our brief conversation, I asked him if he would mind me planting a kiss on his cheek. He smiled, bent down and said, "by all means do so."

That occasion is so vivid in my mind, as if it were only yesterday. It was in 1960, seven and a half years ago. I was then 15. The location had been in the Hunter Point-Bayview community of San Francisco, where a rally was held

for the late President John F. Kennedy in the local Bayview Theater. I had been a "Kennedy Girl."

I ask each and everyone of you, as individuals, as my fellow Americans, to search your hearts, minds and souls and give of yourselves to help restore compassion and unity to our country.

Can't you see that this is our land and it could be so beautiful?

ERVETTA M. ALLEN

Berkeley

Wrong Memorial

Editor — It seems that the death of Robert Kennedy will result in debates as to whether or not 200 million people should share the guilt of the Senator's assassin, and an adequate gun control bill.

If these are the only memorials that we can construct for the Senator then we truly will be a degenerate people. Rather, I believe that tribute must be paid to Robert Kennedy by enacting social legislation that the Senator saw such a need for, and by shifting the values and priorities of the country.

GERALD YAFFEE

Concord

Priorities

Editor — Since when is deer hunting more important than public safety? In considering an effective gun control law, should we place the right of a man to kill deer above a man's right to life and safety?

I feel that our priorities are sadly out of balance.

GARY P. AUSTIN

San Rafael

Governor Kuchel?

Editor — Question: What would the voters do in November if there were a place on the ballot to mark X for Tom Kuchel as Governor and allow the incumbent to retire early?

URBAN WHITAKER

San Bruno

San Francisco Chronicle

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Wednesday, June 12, 1968



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Some Words About the New Music

Editor—Robert Commanday's June 4 column refers to radio station KSAN as "pollution of the air waves." He is horrified at the fact that a station changed its format to keep up with changing tastes in music. Whether Mr. Commanday knows it or not, the whole society is going through a massive upheaval — socially, politically and culturally — and radio, if it is to live up to its mandate to serve the public interest, must keep vitally in touch with the revolutionary developments in the community, as has been the case with KSAN. For this, Metromedia deserves to be commended, not ridiculed, as Mr. Commanday has done. Though the bulk of the column was devoted to castigating the new sound on KSAN, cherishing a concept of exclusivity and purity he fancies the former classical music format to have been, Mr. Commanday, in reviewing a classical station in San Francisco finds many things to be desired.

As a professional commentator on music, the author owes it to his readers, and his publishers, to be more open to contemporary music than his writing indicates him to be. On the contrary, he seems to assume that nothing written since the Nineteenth Century Romantic period is of any quality. No doubt he believes Brahms, Schubert, Schumann and dozens of other second-rate composers to be superior to all that is happening now. But the fact is, as any 20-year-old knows, that there is an enormous amount of creative output in music which falls roughly in the "rock" or "folk" categories.

When those of us of earlier generations came of age, popular music was dominated by the Hollywood-New York commercial complex so we turned to the classics for quality in music, albeit nearly all of it was antiquated. Those of us whose heads are open, however, realized with delight that the old patterns were broken by the emergence of so many varied artists from all over the world, such as Ravi Shanker, The Beatles, Bob

Dylan, The Grateful Dead, and Simon and Garfunkel.

If Mr. Commanday would ask his Chronicle colleague, Ralph J. Gleason, to open Mr. Commanday's ears to the new music, (selectively if the total immersion sound of KSAN is too much for him) perhaps this comments on music might then be more enlightened. He might become aware that, in addition to all the great composers of other eras, there are people alive today whose music has artistic merit and whose communication with millions who listen is of vast social significance.

What is worthwhile from the past will survive without the need of excluding the artists of our own age. As Mr. Commanday would know, if he would listen to KSAN, the disc jockeys there integrate Renaissance, Baroque, Classical and Modern music very tastefully with the best of contemporary English and American music. It is, of course, also fitting that the work of the internationally renowned San Francisco groups have radio exposure in the city in which this music was born. Many of the KSAN jockeys have classical backgrounds, yet they play this kind of music by choice because it's more exciting, more interesting, more pertinent, and it's what's happening now.

Even Sir William S. Gilbert in *The Mikado* included in the famous "list of society offenders . . . who never would be missed" "The idiot who praises with enthusiastic tone All centuries but this and every country but his own."

WHITNEY HARRIS

San Francisco

National Sport

Editor — In our nation killing is engaged in as a sport, killing is viewed enthusiastically as entertainment on TV and films, and mass killing is supported in Vietnam for politics and profit. Do we really need another presidential commission to investigate violence?

A people whose minds are

soaked daily in violence via the media can surely adjust to assassinations as long as business goes on as usual. The President will undoubtedly see to that by continuing to designate days of mourning on Sundays only.

BETTY BARNHART

Santa Cruz

The Other Dead

Editor — In considering the events of the past few weeks I would suggest all flags remain at half-mast in memory of the weekly slaughter of GIs who will not have the chance to become Martin-Luther Kings or Kennedys.

EUGENIA D. FARQUHAR

Burlingame

Part of the Problem

Editor — The comments being made by certain of our leaders are more frightening than the atmosphere of fear and confusion that exists in America. President Johnson says nothing is wrong with America and then proceeds to condemn apathy and violence in the country. Eric Hoffer, who must be the most overrated man of our time, defends Americans as being a "gentle people." Mayor Yorty knows best because he is a lawyer. All of them are part of the problem and not part of the solution. They obviously cannot lead.

The mandate must now be given to Senator McCarthy. To embrace Humphrey with his "politics of joy and happiness" is nauseous to contemplate and we should let Nixon satisfy his ego on his own time.

M. GIUNTOLI

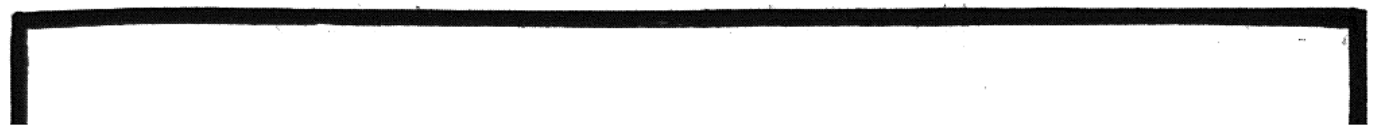
San Jose

Something Smells

Editor — How can anything beautiful happen South of Market with the foul odor of fetid meats permeating our less than lovely thoughts?

BOB COLLIN

San Francisco



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Death in the Family

Editor — I was watching the ceremony at the church for Robert Kennedy when a telegram was delivered to me. It advised me that my husband had been killed in action in Vietnam. It did not say under what circumstances, but I envisioned him lying in the filthy muck of some rice paddy, being stabbed slowly to death by a Viet Cong's bayonet.

I am not bitter because my husband's death did not receive the recognition Kennedy's did. But I do question whether Robert Kennedy would have wished his tragic death to be given the television coverage it received. In view of his many speeches I believe he would not have wished his death to receive any more attention than any single one of the hundreds who die each week in Vietnam.

NAME WITHHELD

Routing Freeways

Editor — Your editorial on the position of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors on the routing of the Junipero Serra freeway through the San Francisco watershed area echoes the sentiments of countless residents of San Mateo county who have long appreciated the existence of this exceedingly beautiful, near wilderness preserve in population-saturated San Mateo county.

To slash this narrow canyon with a swath of concrete seems unthinkable. This is not a project that can be easily changed at a future date, but one that involves a blight for all of the foreseeable future.

MARTHINE S. GALLAWAY
San Carlos

'Stop Inflaming'

Editor — The following is a wire I have sent to Frank Stanton, President of CBS in New York.

"Stop it. Please stop inflaming this country about guns and gun

laws. You will disarm the innocent and only criminals will have guns. Even if you get all the guns, the government will still have guns, and the criminals will have guns and knives. My family is alive today because I had a sporting rifle and the 6 foot 8 inch intruder in our bedroom only had a knife. Your depraved presentation of the Kennedy wake is now to be followed by cries that guns rather than the Kennedy pretensions were to blame for the death of this man.

Perhaps I overestimate your influence in CBS in these dreadful events. Yet I must say I wait. I wait to hear the smallest bit of news of those who were killed by the Kennedy train of fashionable rich people. I wait to see the Kennedys shedding tears over their graves.

PHILIP A. RAY

Hillsborough.

Hope for Czechs

Editor — Since there can be no doubt that the recent events in Czechoslovakia indicate the most important and hopeful development within the East European Communist bloc outside the Soviet Union, the question arises what the American government is going to do to encourage the Czech people in their admirable and immensely courageous struggle for the "democratization within a Communist regime."

Three things should and could be done immediately:

To return the paltry \$20 million in gold held by our government since 1945.

To offer a new kind of Marshall plan to the new regime in Prague. As you may remember, Stalin forced Jan Masaryk, then Czechoslovakia's foreign minister, to reject the American Marshall plan aid offered in 1948. It is my opinion that a few days later and after Jan Masaryk's return from Moscow, the foreign minister was assassinated in his apartment in Czernin Palace and the corpse was thrown out the window.

To negotiate with the Czech

"liberals" who are now in power in Prague, under the guidance of Dubcek, the conclusion of an American-Czech Cultural Exchange agreement.

The Soviet government could hardly denounce the Czechs as "lackeys of Wall Street" for the conclusion of such an agreement since such cultural exchange agreement between the USSR and the U.S. have been in existence for more than ten years. . . . Whereas the value of the cultural exchange agreements between the USSR and the U.S. can be reasonably be questioned, no doubts exist about the usefulness of a U.S.-Czech cultural exchange agreement.

The agreement should provide for intensive exchanges of scholars, students and artists — from symphony orchestras to jazz bands as well as art exhibitions, theatrical groups and plain tourists — and all this on a rather broad and generous basis.

A cultural exchange agreement between the United States and the new Czechoslovakia would be of immense importance in cementing a real friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

JULIUS EPSTEIN

That's Music?

Editor — Robert Commanday's column on the devaluation of KSFR from sterling to plate is an apt comment on the current penchant of some of the media to blame public taste rather than commercial exigency for degrading program quality.

Cerberus has been seduced from his godhead by a dog biscuit. But alack, I am no longer talking about the KSFR of old that I loved. To adumbrate the observation in terms KSAN may be able to understand (aided by a forefinger and moving lips), gold has been traded for lead.

Me. I'd rather switch than fight. And I've switched to KKHI.

May KSAN's electricity fail

TOR TORLAND

San Francisco

San Francisco Chronicle
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

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