

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## A Lot of Smoke

Editor — I am amazed to learn that people are actually being arrested on charges of releasing a "noxious, irritating gas" in the Belmont Theater and "releasing an offensive substance in a place of public assembly" namely Theater 70 in Oakland.

These charges (against people alleged to have discharged stink bombs in movie theaters) perfectly describe what happens in every movie theater I have attended in this area; yet, the offenders are people of all kinds, who have only one thing in common — the smoking habit. For years I have suffered silently from the noxious, irritating gases they release. Now I am overjoyed to discover the law is on my side.

The next time I smell a smoker in a movie theater I'll promptly call a policeman, who will of course promptly arrest the offender and remove him from the theater. When news of the arrest gets around, perhaps smokers will begin to realize how offensive their habit is.

MRS. HELEN STORY.

Berkeley.

## Tribalism

Editor — The continuing growth of the movement against the Vietnam war, both here and around the world, is beginning to reveal itself as the birth of a new and desperately needed awakening of conscience and direction.

The terrible tribalism (nationalism) of this century which led to the most barbaric and degenerate thought in modern history, is beginning to show signs of breaking down. It must continue to do so with increasing rapidity, for mankind can no longer afford its devastating effects on the human conscience, as was manifest in the World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, and the arms race that has long since past the realm of madness. In fact, both the United States and Russia have armed themselves to the point where each can annihilate

the other as a civilization within a day or even an hour. Each is now quite able to inflict 120 million immediate deaths on the other to be followed by millions more in the nightmare of fallout, burns, and starvation. This is a totally degenerate condition that must be ended now and forever.

The history of this century, right up to the present time, reveals that something has been seriously wrong in the general world view of our civilization. It should be obvious to everyone, that nationalism, which is simply the latest and largest extension of tribalism, must be finally superseded by a more rational and universal view of humanity.

Out of the rubble of wars, devastation and despair of this century, a new generation of spirit and purpose is beginning to assert itself in continually expanding peace movements that must continue to expand in numbers and strength until the nightmare of modern wars is ended, and unity and peace established.

As the great scientist and philosopher Teilhard de Chardin has stated: "The age of nations is past. The task before us now, if we would not perish, is to build the earth." And so we must.

The task before us is indeed awesome, but if we have the will, and the basic love for life, we shall succeed, and therefore mankind.

DOUGLAS MATTERN.

Palo Alto.

## The Pueblo Affair

Editor — I address this to the Committee to "Retake Pueblo." The population in North Korea is 12,100,000 with 29,375,000 in South Korea. If the government of South Korea had the popular support of its people, it would not need to be defended with our men. Since the government we support in South Korea does not enjoy the popular support of its people, this would mean not only would we have to ward off the North Koreans but, like in South Vietnam,

we would be surrounded and intermixed by the enemy. Remember also that Canada is reassessing its commitments because of our Asian policy.

Be glad we are negotiating a release.

MURIEL DAX.

Walnut Creek.

## Starving Biafra

Editor — Something should be done at once to airlift food to Biafra, or else two or three million children there will soon die. Simple humanity demands that this at least be tried, even though much of the food may be given to soldiers rather than children.

We are concerned about Vietnam, riots and gun control because of the many lives involved. So we should be even more concerned about this, where far more lives are at stake . . .

RICHARD L. KOWALKOWSKI.

San Francisco.

## 'Nuts'

Editor — After reading "Report of Terms for a Cease-Fire" I had to look at the paper twice to check the date. I thought I had a 25-year-old paper.

Shades of Munich. Do we have to learn that lesson all over again? They think if they yell loud enough we will get scared and give them what they want and never expected.

When are we going to get some one that has enough guts to stand up and yell "NUTS?"

BETTY W. THOMPSON.

San Francisco.

## Red, White---Black?

Editor — Do you suppose it would stir up any controversy if I would propose that our Flag be red, white and black.

Whoever saw any stars in a blue sky?

PAT FRAYNE.

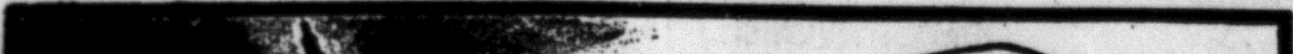
San Carlos.

**San Francisco Chronicle**  
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

30



Tuesday, July 16, 1968



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## All About Alcatraz

Editor — It's bad enough to have the bay corrupted with sewage, trash and garbage without having Alcatraz Island crowned with a glorified ketchup bottle.

MALVINA REYNOLDS.

Berkeley.

Editor — I was so heartened to read Mortimer Fleishhacker's strong statement against "doing something about Alcatraz" that I wish to back him up in the public prints.

Alcatraz is just great the way it is . . . all we need to do is to let that water tank topple over. The rest can go on into eternity, gradually getting moss and ice-plant covered, looking antique and lovely . . .

TAVA P. WILEY.

San Francisco.

## Some Real Bargains

Editor — We'd like to comment on an article in *The Chronicle* recently regarding the *Queen Mary*, which is now located in Long Beach, California.

The story stated that the Long Beach "Geniuses" plan to make, by melting down three of the *Queen Mary's* propellers, 6,300,000 tie pins, sell them for \$1.50 each and thereby raise \$18,900,000 — according to our reckoning; at \$1.50 each the tie pins would only raise \$9,450,000.

The reason, we think, this was not considered by the British is that Britain does not have 6,300,000 gullible citizens which your Long Beach "Geniuses" assume you have in the U.S.A. We are successfully selling to the United States items such as: One old London Bridge, various Ancient Castles, Pieces of Ireland, and not forgetting such luxury items as bottled Scottish Water and canned London Fog. Surely this is British selling at its best.

Would American Financial Geniuses please note that Britain has a surplus of second-hand coal

mines, abandoned railway stations and five-gallon cans of English channel all available at the never to be repeated "special" prices for the American market (which appears to be the only bidder) . . .

R. L. STEVENSON,  
For England.

B. THOMSON,  
For Ireland.

P. HARRIS,  
For Wales.

I. H. THOMPSON,  
For Scotland.

Gallowhill, Paisley,  
Scotland.

## Police Restraint

Editor — Our compliments on not only your news report but on your editorial concerning Oakland Police Chief Gain's order limiting the use of police guns. We agree with you that this is a courageous act, deserving the support of the community, and one likely to help ease racial tensions in Oakland.

We are hopeful that Chief Gain's order will receive the attention of law enforcement officials in all Bay Area cities. Similar orders in many of our communities could serve to allay the fears of minority residents and reduce the possibility of incidents triggered by reports of police violence.

JOHN RIORDAN,  
President,

Council for Civic Unity.

San Francisco.

## Bookseller McDonald

Editor — Jack McDonald, the book dealer whose obituary you printed in *The Chronicle* was a steady contributor of articles to "*The Western Socialist*" for the 35 years of its existence. Beginning when it was first published in Winnipeg, Canada in 1933 (the first McDonald article entitled "The San Francisco Strike" appeared in the August 1934 issue), and continuing in the years since October 1939 when the WS moved

to Boston, McDonald supplied a steady stream of articles.

The final one from his pen (unless some more manuscripts turn up) will appear in our forthcoming issue to be off the press before then end of this month. It is titled "The Tragedy of India."

It is sad, indeed, that J. A. McDonald was not better known, even in the San Francisco Bay Area where he lived for so many years. And it is particularly sad that so few, even among those who did know him, took the trouble to read his voluminous writings. For his articles covered such a broad scope that they almost provide the basis for a liberal education.

At least within the World Socialist Movement, the name J. A. McDonald had become a legend over the years and he will be missed.

HARRY MORRISON,  
Co-editor,

*The Western Socialist*.

Boston.

## Great Institution

Editor — To Mr. Hinders, who suggests that the "Recall Reagan" movement is a liberal version of "Impeach Earl Warren," (Letters, July 12) I would like to say, as a signer of the petition, that no larger philosophical issues prompted me to do so.

My State income tax was more than doubled for no better reason than the Governor does not approve of accrual bookkeeping or credit. It is probable no business in America does not use the former, and the latter is the only 100 per cent American contribution to the world's culture.

It is unbelievable to me that we Californians are such sheep as to pay over 100 per cent more taxes without complaint, or such stupidly that we will actually pay for the undermining of our greatest American institution.

It seems to me a matter of who's crazy, us, or the Governor?

DAVID WRIGHT.

San Francisco.

**San Francisco Chronicle**  
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

44



Wednesday, July 17, 1968

"Here we go again!"

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## 'It Won't Work

Editor—Police Chief Gain's decision to limit police guns was made with the best intention, however, it appears to me that it is going to result in an increase in auto thefts, burglary and other crimes. In the long run it will do more harm than good. After all, most criminals and professional killers get started with small crime. More will try it, now that they know they will not be shot at.

In the last few years the tendency has been to increase the "protection" of the criminals. It is time we start thinking about the law abiding citizen again.

Oakland.

J. L. BLANCO.

## Forward Planning

Editor—I am at a loss to understand why the bay bridges are not unified under a regional Transit Port Development District. While Golden Gate Bridge Directors suggest fare reductions to ten cents, San Francisco-Oakland toll authorities claim they need an increase.

Already international carriers consider San Francisco as second rate, viz. Pan Am's turning to Los Angeles as the gateway city to the Orient. Likewise Oakland took the lead in getting the containerized cargo business; San Mateo county pulled out of BART; and developers dump fill into the bay without regard for overall regional interests.

Can it be that San Francisco lacks intelligent forward planning to tackle the problems and potentialities of this great region? I hope not.

San Francisco.

THOMAS T. MEIN.

## A Ruined Sunday

Editor—I have often wondered what kind of events would be put on at the Palace of Fine Arts if anything happened to Walter Johnson and he was no longer around to act as our "watch dog."

Sunday we found out! And it

could be called nothing less than a disgrace.

Parking laws were completely ignored, bus stops were packed solid with cars as were many driveways, and nothing was done.

But the worst of it all was the loudspeaker over which they played their music and screamed all day long.

It seems to me that Golden Gate Park is big enough to have a "happening" without bringing it into a quiet neighborhood like the Marina and completely ruining a Sunday for all who live there.

ETHEL M. WILSON.

San Francisco.

## Appeal

Editor—With all the furor about the moral issues involved in organ transplants, one key point seems neglected.

In the most successful heart transplant to date (the Blaiberg case) you had a white Jewish patient, receiving a heart from a segregated black donor (religion not listed), with the operation performed by a white Christian surgeon.

This case illustrates the absurdity of the hatreds prompted by religious and racial bigotry. On the other hand, the remarkable advances of science speak eloquently for a non sectarian approach to human improvement.

ARTHUR BURTON.

San Anselmo.

## Gas Tax for BART

Editor—Here is the way to save square miles of space and prevent lakes of smog in our metropolitan areas.

Let us require that one half of the State tax on gasoline be used to support BART and like systems. This would appear to be an economical use of our tax dollars since, (as is stated in "Cry California," Spring 1967) a freeway can move only 2400 persons past a given point in a metropolitan area,

but a train system (such as BART) can move 30,000, or more than 12 times as many. This would conserve much valuable space and massively reduce our smog burden. It would delay the day when drastic measures will have to be taken against our increasingly numerous smog producing cars.

KENNETH M. STOCKING, Ph.D.  
Santa Rosa.

## Keep the Guns

Editor — The people in San Francisco should think back a few years to the time when the people of England asked us to send them all of our spare guns. They were afraid that the Germans were going to come in on them.

It might be well for the people of San Francisco to keep their guns and get a group together to contest Mayor Alioto's unconstitutional gun ordinance.

E. A. LOUGH

Hayfork.

## Filthy

Editor—Is our Mayor trying to drive our visitors away?

The sidewalks, in spite of the city ordinances, are filthy — especially in the vicinity of Powell and Market — on weekends — where most of our tourists congregate.

THOMAS L. ASH.

San Francisco.

## Discrimination

Editor — Help to cause the removal of the unfair barricades which bar motorists from access to Golden Gate main drive every Sunday.

Also protest the barricades which bar us from the Aquarium and the Japanese Tea Garden parking lots every Sunday. Only pedestrians and a few bicycle riders may use these barricaded areas. This is discrimination.

LEO E. FRAPPIER.

San Francisco.

**San Francisco Chronicle**  
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

40



Thursday, July 18, 1968



"I thought if I closed my eyes he'd go away, but . . ."

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Snooping by Computer

Editor — As a professional computer scientist of ten years' standing, and as a man concerned with human rights, I was appalled at the directive (The Chronicle, July 16) of the State Department of Social Welfare requiring social workers to feed intimate facts about their clients into a central computer without any semblance of real safeguards against unauthorized snooping.

Computer power and atomic power have one vital common property: if used properly they can be of immense benefit to society, while if misused they can destroy it. This is not just a figure of speech. The proposed National Data Bank, which would hold confidential information on every citizen in the country, brings us to the threshold of "1984" — and without adequate protection from snooping, someone will push us across that threshold.

LAURENCE PETER DEUTSCH.  
Berkeley.

## Party of Peace

Editor — The Republican party is faced with factors which most assuredly may divide, confuse and lead it off the track once again.

The delegates, and the rank and file of the party should look beyond momentary gimmicks that could misdirect it to once again nominate itself into catastrophe. Reliable public opinion polls accurately indicated long before the 1964 Republican convention that Senator Barry Goldwater ranked sixth as a likely candidate. The 1964 delegates were apparently stampeded into thinking they had a winner.

It should be noted that in 1960 there were far more Democrats registered than Republicans. Though 1960 was a Republican defeat in a close election, it is significant that far more Democrats deserted their party to vote for the 1960 Republican presidential state than was the case to the contrary.

The American people in the 1960s put a Democratic administration in the White House and a dominant Democratic majority in the Congress, which in turn to some degree brought you "Combat" in South Vietnam. It will take a Republican administration — and possibly a Republican Congress as well — to once again return the Nation to an era of peace.

Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Taft, Harding, Coolidge, Hoover and Eisenhower were peacetime Presidents — a sterling achievement in the Twentieth Century.

JAMES HENRY SCHOPPE.  
Portland, Oregon.

## Art on Alcatraz

Editor — There is, I think, reason enough to propose a sculpture for Alcatraz island to openly face the peoples across the Pacific.

It should be created by Bennie Bufano.

LOUIS HOCHBERG.  
Berkeley.

## Money for BART

Editor — BART must raise \$144 million to complete the Rapid Transit project, and, regardless of the causes of this huge deficit, it is unthinkable to contemplate leaving it unfinished.

Several plans have been suggested to fund this deficit. It seems that the best plan would be the one that calls for an increase in Bay bridge tolls. This would accomplish a number of goals, such as:

1. Raise the \$144 million by making it possible to sell an additional bond issue to be paid off from the proceeds of the increased bridge tolls;
2. Discourage the use of private automobiles when crossing the Bay and thus provide the greater use of BART;
3. Reduce congestion on the highways, streets and cities parking facilities;
4. Raise BART's revenues and thus reduce the taxes levied to

amortize the principal and interest on the huge original bond issues;

5. Raise the tolls for people who take advantage of the lessening traffic by continuing to use their cars for travel within the Bay Area;
6. Decrease the problem of smog control.

Other proposals would either penalize the taxpayers who will have little or no use or benefit from rapid transit, or use highway funds which should not be diverted. . . .

DOUGLAS BEASLEY.  
Walnut Creek.

## Yes, It's Great

Editor — Re your editorial a week ago — Yes, we drove through Sacramento Sunday too. It was a pleasure.

MR. & MRS. J. H. ULLMAN.  
Redwood City.

## War is the Issue

Editor — Questioned last week whether he would escalate the war in Vietnam if peace talks break down, the Vice President said that as far as he can see now, he would not invade North Vietnam.

Assurances like that sounded good four years ago, and Lyndon Johnson won by a wide margin on the strength of them. But this time we aren't going to be led down the same garden path by the same administration using the same old evasions.

There are millions of us for whom the war is the issue, and many of us have concluded that we don't have to vote for four more years of war. We don't have to vote at all, somewhat to our own surprise.

May I suggest to the Democratic National Convention that the only acceptable candidate is Eugene McCarthy. It is their good fortune, largely unearned, that he also happens to be the only winner in view.

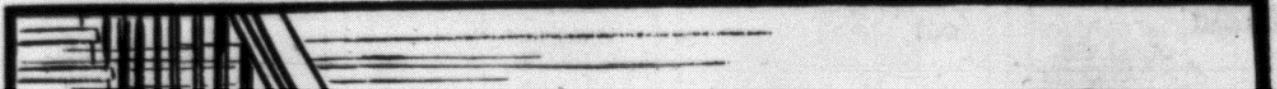
MARY ANN SALO.  
Comptche, Calif.

**San Francisco Chronicle**  
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

33



Friday, July 19, 1968





# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Yorty's Defense

Editor — I have read with interest your editorial, "An Example in a Time of Doubt," appearing June 10, and I would like to take this opportunity to advise you that I am still convinced my release of pertinent information about the accused Sirhan Sirhan was in the public interest and did not prejudice his rights.

Because the tragedy of Senator Kennedy's assassination occurred in Los Angeles, our people had a special interest and a right to know something about the accused person and his possible motivation.

Before I revealed the identity of the suspect, rumors had begun to circulate that the shooting had been committed by a Mexican-American. This was very unfair to a large group of people in our community, and I felt that this baseless rumor had to be set at rest forthwith.

It is wrong to accuse the entire American people or any particular ethnic group of guilt in this and the other violent and senseless assassinations which have occurred recently in our nation. These dastardly killings were, it appears, the work of men who had either repudiated all this nation stands for or who had never embraced the principles of our democracy.

Telegrams, letters and editorials from the nation's press are two to one in favor of my action.

SAM YORTY,  
Mayor.

Los Angeles.

## A Birth Control Plan

Editor — So long as we reproduce human beings in this country faster than we can decently house, clothe, feed and educate them, we will have dropouts and failures in ever increasing numbers.

So long as we reproduce human beings faster than we can produce decent, meaningful jobs for them, we will have riots, poverty and bloodshed.

So long as we continue to put all

our great abilities and energies into constantly expanding at the expense of improving our country, we will have spreading urban blight, sprawling suburban slums and desecration of the land and the wilderness.

For the general welfare of our country we now pay large subsidies to our farmers not to grow food. I propose we use this same system to encourage our citizens not to have more than two or three children per family. My specific proposal is as follows:

1. Every American woman between the ages of 15 and 45 who is a member of a family with a net annual income of less than \$3500 or \$4000 should receive from the Federal government a subsidy of \$500 a year so long as she does not give birth to a child during that year. If she wishes to have a child she foregoes her subsidy for two years.

2. Every American woman between the ages of 15 and 45 who comes from a family with a net income of greater than \$4000 a year receives a tax credit of \$500 for each year she does not deliver a child.

3. Present income tax laws giving tax credits for each additional child should be modified.

You may be interested to know that I have discussed the plan with several hundreds of my acquaintances and have found them nearly 100 per cent favorably interested.

LOUIS SHATTUCK BAER, M.D.  
Burlingame.

## Nigerian Relief

Editor — Correspondent Kowalkowski's letter on the plight of the Nigerian children echoes the concern of UNICEF which has been channeling emergency relief through the International Red Cross Committee. Much greater help is needed than the Children's Fund reserves can provide, so the Executive Director, Henry R. Labouisse, has just issued an appeal for cash donations from governments and individuals.

Anyone wishing to contribute to

this humanitarian cause may send a check or money order (tax deductible) to the "United States Committee for UNICEF, Nigerian Relief" at Committee headquarters, 331 East 38th Street, New York 10016. Contributions made directly to the United Nations Children's Fund have been ruled non-deductible by the IRS.

The prevention of deaths from starvation and malnutrition is the first priority. There will be the continuing need for reconstruction of essential children's services in that war-torn area. This points to more citizen participation in the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF on Hallowe'en and many more purchases of the greeting cards and note papers.

MARION S. HEMINGWAY.  
San Mateo.

## 'The Big Sur I Love'

Editor — People must understand there are two Big Sur — the one I live in and the one I read about in the newspapers. The one I read about is a place I would be unhappy to live and work in.

The Big Sur I live and work in is a lovely, quiet peaceful place. It is a place of families, kids, sunshine and fishing in the river.

For fifteen years I have lived here and have seen many people come and go. Most of the people I have seen here were just that — people.

I have also seen the various strange types come and go, and this is my point: the strange and unpleasant creatures that the news media have identified with Big Sur are not in Big Sur. They pass through quickly.

They are as uncomfortable with the square families that vacation in Big Sur as those same families would be with the hippies.

Yes, Big Sur has hippies. So does Carmel, so does San Francisco, so does Boston, and so does almost everywhere else.

But, the hippies are not Big Sur, nor is Big Sur hippie . . .

BERLE FARBER.

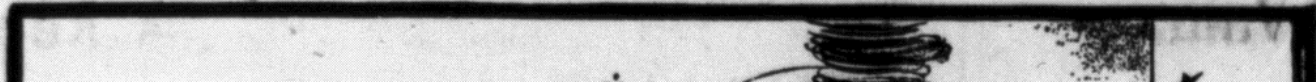
Big Sur.

**San Francisco Chronicle**  
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

40

☆☆

Monday, July 22, 1968



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## **Appalling Idea**

Editor—I resent the statement of Governor Reagan published July 15 that Congressman Paul N. "Pete" McCloskey of San Mateo has a lot to learn about party loyalty . . . perhaps we can teach him something."

This was in reference to McCloskey's failure to support Max Rafferty for United States Senator.

The idea of Max Rafferty in Congress appalls me; the only compensation would be that it would get him out of education in California, but I will nevertheless oppose him for that high office.

Many of us who voted for him are disenchanted with our Governor who has spent more time campaigning for the presidency than running the State. I am sure the tastelessness and threatening comment of the Governor will not intimidate McCloskey, who has the courage of his convictions.

BARBARA M. ROBERTS.  
San Carlos.

## **Fouling the Nest**

Editor—What sort of a nation are we when we can go 12,000 miles and spend billions of dollars to destroy the forest and land of Vietnam and we cannot find a few paltry millions of dollars to save a priceless heritage, namely our redwoods.

No other animal fouls its nest as we do here in the United States. The horror is that we do it knowingly and the means for correction are at hand.

EUGENE EAGLE, O.D.  
San Francisco.

## **Liberty Today**

Editor — It seems to me the ideal solution for Alcatraz is a statue of liberty the same size and style as the one in New York.

It should differ from the original only in that it does not hold up the torch of freedom, but is blindfolded and has both its hands and

feet tied. This would symbolize our progress since France presented us with the first one.

It is not likely the French would foot the bill for a second statue, but there are no doubt a number of other countries that would gladly pay for it, or maybe even our six southern California counties.

JOHN ROBINSON.  
Belmont.

## **'Misuse' of Recall**

Editor — Hiram Warren Johnson was a giant in California politics — whether as Governor or Senator he unselfishly dedicated his life to both the State and Nation he loved.

Under his governorship Californians were accorded what was then deemed the necessary and fundamental trilogy of progressive democracy — "initiative, referendum and recall." Governor Johnson sincerely felt that the citizens of California were politically mature enough that they could be entrusted with the most sophisticated instruments of self government.

This man among men would today weep with shame were he alive to see the abuse to which the latter of these reforms has been utilized, by those very persons who would destroy that Nation for which he gave his life.

THOMAS M. EDWARDS.  
San Francisco.

## **'Bring Back Mail Trains'**

Editor — The mad rush by our unfriendly Southern Pacific in meeting the 1970 deadline for complete abolishment of passenger trains over the system can be credited to an Interstate Commerce Commission formula determining losses incurred in operating these trains.

The formula charges passenger losses with a portion of all costs for maintenance of tracks, signals, yards and other physical properties which would have to be maintained

even if passenger runs were all abolished. The million dollar losses reported on such a run as the San Joaquin Daylight can be more accurately placed at half a million.

If the Post Office Department would reconsider its backward move when the railway postal cars were removed from most passenger train runs, it would help to maintain these runs at a break-even level and still provide convenience and necessity to those desiring comfort in rail travel. Perhaps our mail service became fouled up since the sorting of mail in transit on these passenger runs has become practically non-existent.

EDWARD H. NERVO.  
San Francisco.

## **Bugged**

Editor — I am sure that you at all times want your newspaper to be a source of correct information, and therefore I am taking the liberty of correcting your column "London is Talking About — The Cavalry Charge" July 16.

Cavalrymen are armed with sabers (also spelled sabres), not "swords" as the column mentions, and I am sure that Her Majesty's mounted guards are still armed in this manner; you might check by telephone.

J. E. B. Stuart, late Major General, CSA and George A. Custer, of Last Stand fame and late Brevet Brigadier General, U.S.A. would no doubt roll over at the thought of their troopers being armed with swords.

Only Navy men carry swords. (Damn it! It's the little things that bug me.)

JAMES V. THOMPSON.  
Lafayette.

## **Mid-Town Embarcadero**

Editor — Why is our Mayor so concerned over the Embarcadero Freeway? At the rate we're filling in the Bay, it will soon be in the center of town.

MASON ROBERSON.  
San Francisco.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Private Gun Poll

Editor — An item in The Chronicle last week stated that 70 per cent of the people are for gun curbs. I don't know where you get this information, for in the past three weeks I have interviewed about 400 people, men and women, and over 90 per cent, including all the women, were against registration.

People are becoming afraid of what is happening. Most feel we have no protection except what we provide for ourselves.

WM. E. WHITEHOUSE.

Merced.

## Skinnydipping

Editor—Since when is a \$125 fine for nude bathing "lenient?" (The Chronicle, July 19). Isn't Fort Funston big enough for everyone to have a good time, or is it for the exclusive use of the prudes? Why should nude bathing be illegal, if it in fact is, when topless shows go on unabated?

CHARLES R. ARNOLD.

San Francisco.

## Suggestion

Editor — The Chronicle recently reported Dean Rusk as saying that he "firmly believes Czechoslovakia, as any other country, should be free to develop its internal arrangement."

Several of my friends would be alive today if we had not intervened in Vietnamese internal arrangements. The Secretary of State could be a little more consistent.

CHARLES LINDNER.

San Francisco.

## The Flower Freeway

Editor — Even though I concur with Mayor Alioto that the Embarcadero freeway is an eyesore and not a fitting continuation to the new, rejuvenated Market street, I believe we should probe into other possible solutions before spending millions in tearing it down. What

thought has been given in beautifying it?

Could not a beautiful free form, abstract design of lattice be built around the supports with a network of climbing plants? Could not flower boxes be installed in irregular intervals along the railings above, again with flowery shrubs that will grow over the railings and trail downward . . .

Could not a number of Bay Area artists be put to work to enhance the structure and its supports with murals, color, and design that will not only enhance the appearance but also create publicity for a "monument to traffic?"

Though the ugly design of the freeway cannot be disputed, it nevertheless is functional and has speeded up traffic with a minimum of accidents. We should think twice before throwing millions of good dollars after bad ones.

FRED J. OBERLANDER.

San Francisco.

## A Disappearing Service

Editor — So the Post Office window service will be discontinued for Saturday service as of July 27. Right after a raise in postal rates, too. The last time we had a raise in rates there was a service curtailment.

A couple of more raises in rates and we will be completely out of a Post Office Department.

GEORGE E. POSNER.

South San Francisco.

## A People Lobby

Editor — The majority of the people want strict gun laws but the gun lobbyists get what they want.

The majority of the people want a meaningful Redwood Park, but the lumber lobbyists get what they want.

The majority of the people want to protect the once almost extinct sea otter, but the fishing lobby says they are a threat to abalone, so we will probably get what they want.

The majority of the people do not want any more filling of San

Francisco Bay, but the lobby for industry does, so we will probably get what they want.

The majority of the people do not want a choice between Nixon and Humphrey in November but the politicians do, so we'll probably get what they want.

The only answer seems to be a People's Lobby. We can't march to Washington or Sacramento, but we can write and wire to Senators, Representatives, or Chairmen and members of the all-powerful Committees.

A P.O.M. (public opinion message) telegram to Washington or Sacramento only costs \$1 for 15 words . . .

JEAN L. RAND.

The Sea Ranch.

## 'Let Wallace Speak'

Editor — President Johnson must be strongly commended for his statement condemning those who were alleged to have prevented George Wallace from speaking on the eve of American Independence day . . .

Many liberals see an obvious danger in the absolute language of George Wallace . . . but they should remember that the mass appeal of George Wallace comes from many influential conservative voters who seek simple solutions and oversimplified targets of blame.

No matter how much disagreement many Americans may express over the views of Wallace, he must have the right to peacefully voice his views in public just as anyone else. An end must come to the tumultuous behavior of those who seek to prevent any opposition from speaking.

In an election year where much disenchantment exists over foreign and domestic policy, do not allow the crude words of George Wallace to gain more momentum by preventing his right to speak in public. His firm conservative stand will only become more reactionary and so will the positions of his followers.

DON COLLIER.

San Francisco.

# San Francisco Chronicle

THE VOICE OF THE WEST

42



Wednesday, July 24, 1968



Order & Name, Title, Editor and Publisher

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Rockefeller's Realism

Editor — Nelson Rockefeller's position on Vietnam is not naive or misinformed. Instead, his statements tell the American people how it is — a collision of "spheres of influence" with the United States on one side and an uneasy alliance of Russian and Chinese Communism on the other.

The unfortunate Vietnamese nation is the medium for conducting this murderous and militarily worthless adventure. Worthless in that no possible escalation on our part can bring "victory" and worthless in that de-escalation and withdrawal can involve no real reduction in our effective frontiers of influence.

Tragic it may be, but our military intervention in Vietnam can have no more lasting effect on the fortunes of the people there than can Russia's aid to Cuba. Neither hawk nor dove, Rockefeller represents a program that recognizes reality and that offers hope for an improvement in the performance of American diplomacy.

RICHARD HALLORAN.  
San Francisco.

## Respect for Toys

Editor — Hasn't anyone thought of teaching children to respect a toy gun as though it were a real gun?

Discontinuing sales of toy guns will not solve problems of violence. Violence we see every day on television, in cartoons and other programs, in the newspapers and magazines.

Children are taught to respect the use of electricity, water, tricycles, bicycles, eating and kitchen utensils, carpentry tools, etc. . . . Why then should toy guns be any different?

BARBARA DIEHL.  
Burlingame.

## Traffic Jam

Editor — It's a wonder my wife and I and a few dozen people are alive this morning.

Over the weekend we attended the Pops concert and parked underground adjoining Brooks Hall.

After the concert it took us 20 minutes to get out of this cavern while we inhaled carbon monoxide fumes spewing forth from our cars.

All of the cars leaving from one level are channeled through one lane. At least there could be two lanes, which should get the cars out in half the time.

This situation seems at least ridiculous, and quite possibly hazardous to health.

HAROLD L. CASIDAY.  
Moraga.

## A Fine Performance

Editor — I am serving as a summer intern in the House of Representatives, where I have been following closely the progress toward a Redwood Park Bill.

Throughout the fight and in the floor debate of the abortive House version of the bill I have been very much impressed by the activities of Representatives Jeffery Cohelan and Phillip Burton of the Bay Area. These two men have shown an unrelenting desire to give the people of California a valuable, meaningful Redwoods National Park and I think that they deserve our full appreciation for all they have done in the face of the cupidity and stupidity of some of the other Congressmen.

RICHARD A. WALKER.  
Stanford.

## KKK-TV?

Editor — I have an idea for Alcatraz. How about erecting a high TV tower in memory of the three K's, namely Kennedy, King and Kennedy, KKK-TV in honor of those three men who died in vain.

ABE HIRSON.  
San Francisco.

## Bigger Spirit Needed

Editor — It is natural — perhaps inevitable — to invoke the name of the honored dead in support of one's own opinion, as Thomas M. Edwards has done with Hiram Johnson in his Letter of July 23.

I take the liberty of doubting Governor Johnson's tears over the Recall Reagan campaign. Barbara

Roberts, in the same column, speaks of the present Governor's "disenchanted" supporters. If the right of recall does not apply to such disenchantment — the correction of a terrible mistake — to what does it apply?

It is Governor Reagan who is destroying this corner of our Nation — the Nation being the people, including the underprivileged, the disinherited, the mentally ill, and the suffering. I believe that he means well, but what emerges is evidence of a spirit not big enough for the man at the head of this great State.

VIRGINIA M. NEFF.  
San Francisco.

## Sunshine

Editor — You should see my face. Believe me, Candlestick Park was the only place in the city with sun over the weekend. Let's keep it. Go there for fresh air — and no dome please.

Let's also keep autos out of Golden Gate Park. Why not sod the Main Drive, the parking lots and make it a park for people. Also, no restaurant please. We need more, not less, wide open spaces in this city.

T. W. LANGLEY.  
San Francisco.

## The Little Things

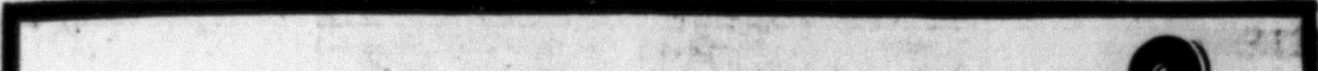
Editor—Before writing to the editor, your correspondent James Thompson of Lafayette should be sure of his facts. The London columnist was quite correct.

The weapon carried by the British Household Cavalry is a SWORD, not a sabre. Regardless of American use, the term sabre has not been used in the British Army since the days of Marlborough.

Officers of infantry and artillery also carry swords on ceremonial duty, as do Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Brigade of Guards. Incidentally, Nelson's encyclopedia describes a sabre as a "curved sword" or Dragoon sword.

As Mr. Thompson says, it's the little things that count.

G. A. BALDWIN.  
Millbrae.





# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The Real Tragedy

Editor — In your "Drug Reform Revisited" editorial of Monday you mention the fact that the felony offender might not be entitled to go into the armed forces, attend school or take a public job, but editors like legislators seem to ignore the really tragic mistake — the fact that a felony conviction deprives you of the right to vote. And since the Beilenson Report on marijuana states that more than half our college students smoke marijuana occasionally we are endangering our entire future by putting our future community leaders in a position of never being able to vote.

We are also endangering our present because the same intelligent young men and women, our future leaders, look at this as part of the general scheme of the status quo to turn this country into a fascist police state in a military-oriented society and it does not take much in the way of brains to know they could be right.

DOROTHY THIELE.

Corte Madera.

## Reagan on Education

Editor — I am all in favor of Governor Reagan's proposed tax credit to parents sending their children to private schools. Let him go further and credit single persons with no tax for education. As it is, single persons now pay more taxes on a percentage basis for education than do people who are responsible for populating the schools.

GEORGE E. BERGMANN.

San Francisco.



Editor — Governor Reagan's recent position paper on education makes amply clear the Governor's basic hostility toward public education. How else could his proposed tax credit system for those whose children attend private schools be interpreted than as an attempt to undermine public education? Of course people in our country have the option to send

their children to private schools if they wish, but it is the responsibility of all our citizens to enhance this country's greatness by providing equitable educational opportunities to all.

Many of the Governor's educational proposals indicate that he wishes to reserve education, with the exception of trade schools, for the privileged few. Why is Mr. Reagan so afraid of an educated and enlightened populace?

RICHARD B. SEYMOUR.

Bodega Bay.

## That's Economy?

Editor — About those economic cutbacks for the Post Office Department — it would be very interesting to know why the Department finds it necessary to issue new commemorative stamps every few months. Surely this has meant large expenditures for which no essential public need nor desire is evident.

Further, there is pending a proposal to adjust national holidays so that they may be on Mondays. If this proposal becomes effective the public will have no delivery service from Friday morning until Tuesday morning.

Mail delivery is an important public service, needful as the furnishing of heat, water, light and police and fire protection. A unanimous public protest in this matter would probably be effective in stopping this proposed curtailment and I'm hopeful such protest will be forthcoming.

P. W. BARNARD.

Alameda.

## Arrest in Vietnam

Editor — Last year Vietnam elections were widely heralded by the present Administration as proof that South Vietnam was indeed a fledgling democracy. Thus, we were right to stay in Vietnam to protect Saigon from the cruel Communist menace.

Now we find that as an aftermath of those elections, the chief anti-Communist opposition candidate has been arrested and will be

tried. He was guilty, it seems, of approaching the whole mess in a realistic way: presenting a plan that would include the National Liberation Front in a new South Vietnamese coalition.

These elections were staged with full U.S. support, and certainly with the implicit suggestion that the opposition was free to debate fully its views. We are now washing our hands of the whole matter stating that the arrest "is purely an internal matter."

If this is the new administration view, fine. Let's carry this logic out a step further and withdraw, recognizing that the whole civil war is "purely an internal matter."

STEPHEN H. WALTERS.

San Francisco.

## A Gripe

Editor — I have a real gripe. Why does the San Francisco Police or the general public allow hippies to sell obscene newspapers?

A couple of week-ends ago we had relatives from out of town visiting, and we took them to see Fisherman's Wharf. What are we faced with but an underground newspaper with a picture of a man and woman in the sex act. This is not the type of thing tourists take their children to see at Fisherman's Wharf.

MARY L. KRUSE.

San Francisco.

## Athletic Citizens

Editor — As a former athlete at San Francisco State I would like to protest the misguided attack on athletics at my college by a fraction of the student body. I have personally benefited from my participation in the athletic program and certainly feel that I am a better person and citizen for it. The motto "mens sana in corpore sano" is as true today as it was thousands of years ago. Look about you and you will see athletes as a whole are better persons and citizens for having participated in athletics.

J. A. MORALES.

San Francisco.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## **Borrow a Billion**

Editor—Higher and higher postal rates with less and less service is the fare now being dished out to the American people.

Let's borrow a billion or two dollars from the Vietnam war to help the Post Office. With the \$26 to \$30 billion a year the war costs us, a couple of billion less shouldn't be noticed. Then we could have more postal service at home and less killing abroad.

HARRY A. HOBBS

Brentwood

## **A Sad Note**

Editor—How sad to learn that San Francisco, Paris of the West and hope for civilized efforts, has failed to meet its fiscal guarantee to ACT, one of the most promising ventures in the performing arts. How about it San Francisco?

BEVERLY RONEY

Portola

## **Two of a Kind**

Editor—I am an American highly outraged by recent Soviet action in Czechoslovakia. However, are we any different from the Russians?

In 1956 Soviet troops and tanks were sent into Hungary to stop an internal conflict and to reinstate a Soviet-controlled government. The Soviets acted upon request of the established (puppet) rulers of Hungary. In 1965 the United States sent troops into the Dominican Republic to stop an internal rebellion. This action was requested by the established rulers of the Dominican Republic. . . . Neither the Russians nor the Americans wanted unfriendly forces in power close to their borders.

The United States unilaterally equipped and trained a Cuban invasion force for the Bay of Pigs. . . . In 1954 the Americans unilaterally overthrew the Guatemalan Gov-

ernment using CIA expertise and an Air Force jet.

If the Soviet Union is unjustified in its actions against Hungary and Czechoslovakia (which it is), weren't we just as unjustified in the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Guatemala?

MARK ROSENTHAL

Berkeley

## **The Bias Is Showing**

Editor—The letter from William Whitehouse in the July 24 letters column stating that 90 per cent of the 400 people he interviewed were against gun registration is not quite as unbiased as it appears. Mr. Whitehouse owns a gun store here in Merced, and I am not surprised that 90 per cent of the people who frequent gun shops are against gun registration.

A month ago I privately circulated a petition supporting gun registration. Operating on a random, door-to-door basis, I obtained 600 signatures. The reaction was 70 to 80 per cent in favor of registration. . . .

L. H. HARRISON

Merced

## **'Take the Ridge Route'**

Editor—We call upon Mayor Alioto, Public Works Director James Carr, the Supervisors of San Francisco and San Mateo counties, the legislative delegations from the Bay Area and all others to stand firm against the pressures to give up on the Ridge Route for the Junipero Serra Freeway.

Despite all the tumult and shouting the facts are the same as they always have been. The local people are most concerned because those who live near the freeway and have to use it want it where it will do the least esthetic damage. And that is on the ridge, not down in the bottom of the valley at the edge of the lake. . . .

Harold Gilliam in "Praise the Buck and Pass the Dirt" shows what we've done to the Bay, and thus to ourselves, in a couple of

decades. Despite great odds, salvation for the Bay is in focus under the late Eugene MacAteer's law for bay conservation. But the hydra-headed forces of achievement often press blindly, almost vengefully as in the Junipero Serra Freeway case, with bad choice among heads. . . .

GEORGE L. COLLINS,

Conservation Associates

San Francisco

## **'Fortas Should Talk'**

Editor—Your July 22 editorial on Justice Abe Fortas is one more example of the holier-than-thou sacred cow attitude that many people seem to have for the Supreme Court.

In my opinion, if Justice Fortas wants this new appointment, he should be willing to justify any actions he may have made in the past that would qualify him for a higher post. And certainly an appointing power has the right to determine the fitness of a candidate for any post.

It has been shown that Justice Fortas has been acting as an adviser, and then later, apparently, passing on the legality of that advice. Every Judge I have known would immediately disqualify himself on the bench if he were to find himself in such a position. But your editorial implies that because Justice Fortas is a member of the Supreme Court he should not be questioned.

Hogwash. If Justice Fortas can't stand the heat, let him get out of the question.

HAROLD DRAKE

King City

## **Beach for Nudes**

Editor — Hail to the au naturel bathers at Fort Funston beach. . . . Perhaps certain beaches should be designated as nudist beaches for those who desire to so bathe.

CHARLES BAKER.

San Rafael.

**San Francisco Chronicle**  
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

34



Monday, July 29, 1968

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## **Francois vs. Cahill**

Editor — We have reached an unhappy pass indeed when civilian politicians acting from what appear to be selfish motives threaten the ouster of our very competent Chief of Police. Well qualified big city police chiefs are not easy to find. If Cahill is forced to resign or retire, the loss will be San Francisco's, not Cahill's.

Perhaps the relationship between our elected officials and our police department needs to be re-examined. City police departments, like the national defense department, certainly should be under civilian control; but that control should be limited to matters of broad policy.

The internal administration of the police department, including the assignment of individual policemen to specific duties and most especially the naming of the chief's principal aides, should be the prerogative of the chief.

R. H. HAYDEN.

San Francisco.

## **Over-Employment**

Editor — I am not a writer of letters to the editor normally, but feel impelled to comment on Royce Brier's column "Hitting You in the Mail Box," July 24.

Using Mr. Brier's figures, it appears that two years ago the postal service had about 657,000 employees, based on a proposed cutback of 83,000 from the present 740,000 employees to the June 1966 level. This indicates an increase of just under 13 per cent in two years. How much did our population or business increase in that time? And yet politically appointed Postmaster General Watson, a complete novice to the postal service, is crying crocodile tears all over the place, with severe cutbacks of various kinds ostensibly a necessity.

Perhaps the cutback should not be as severe as indicated, but from years of personal experience in

civil service, both Federal and State, I know that a reasonable cutback should not affect the postal service if any kind of intelligent planning and control is exercised.

As an illustration, at one time in a Federal government installation, my ostensible supervisor was about to requisition three more secretaries, with apparent good showing of necessity. Knowing the actual problems, I bet him that my one secretary could not only handle my work, but also the additional work he required. He took me up on it — and lost. He never did forward the request for additional personnel.

This sort of thing is typical under civil service. Add more people, then add more supervisors, then add still more people so the supervisors will have more people to supervise, and so on . . . I cannot believe that the Post Office is any different from the agencies in my experience in this respect. What it needs is a businesslike head and some way of cutting down the junk mail and these are the things Congress should do something about.

C. F. CLARK.

San Rafael.

## **'Time to Level'**

Editor — It is high time that our military leaders level with the American people concerning the crew of the Pueblo. If they were indeed within North Korean waters, by all means apologize, and retrieve the men. If they were not in that country's waters at the time of their abduction, answer piracy with piracy — seize every North Korean vessel afloat . . .

GEORGE MALSARY.

Berkeley.

## **Peace Candidate**

Editor — Truong Dinh Dzu, the South Vietnamese peace candidate of last September's elections, has been arrested, convicted and sentenced for his statements and ef-

orts to end the war and bring peace to Vietnam. This should surprise no one. After all, how many men in this country are serving prison sentences because they do not see war as the means to peace?

The governments of neither the United States nor South Vietnam are willing to admit that war is immoral and inhuman, no matter how many of us consider it to be nothing less than legalized murder.

The words of the prophets are not pleasing to our violent society; it is more expedient to call the prophets traitors and to silence them with prison walls.

PHILLIP J. FAIGHT.

San Rafael.

## **Plain Talk**

Editor — Your excellent columnist, Sylvia Porter, in her column "Record Squeeze on Taxpayers," makes the point that if the Vietnam war ends soon, Federal taxes could go down, but State taxes will go on.

She ends the column with the observation: "I'll mind paying taxes less though, for then I will approve of what my taxes are 'buying.' Meanwhile this is today and all I can think of is the squeeze I'm in and the hateful war responsible for it. What a tragic, unnecessary mess!"

Miss Porter hit the nail on the head.

PAUL L. NICHOLS.

El Cerrito.

## **'Pickpockets'**

Editor — Why is it that every successful politician immediately after taking office . . . begins to scheme up new ways of reaching into the pocket books of his constituents?

There is a law against pickpockets. Why not a law against certain forms of political pocket picking?

RALPH W. LITTLEFIELD.

Santa Susana, Calif.

**San Francisco Chronicle**  
THE VOICE OF THE WEST

30

☆

Tuesday, July 30, 1968

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Stand Up for ACT

Editor—San Francisco, presumably a cultural citadel, has no business not having a major theater. If individual contributions will not extend ACT's longevity, perhaps it is time the business community exhibited dynamic leadership.

Exciting theater is worth having and supporting. Will the City That Knows How please stand up?

MICHAEL DRIVER.

Palo Alto.

## This Is Democracy?

Editor—I am simply appalled at the recent actions of the South Vietnamese government — first, in the military trial and conviction of the leading contender for the presidency in the 1967 election on the charge that his advocacy of a coalition government constituted "action harmful to the anti-Communist fighting spirit of the people and the armed forces," and secondly in the military trial and conviction of a 13-year-old student-publisher of a newspaper for stories denouncing the war and also calling for a coalition government on the charge that such actions were "pro-Communist."

This is the government we sustain with the lives of our fighting men and the treasures of our nation . . . This is the government which our President traveled to Honolulu to assure that it would have a part in the final peace negotiations . . .

Is the South Vietnamese government any more worthy of support than the North? Does such a government actually represent the will of the people? . . .

Could it be that in a so-called democratic society there is no such thing as a single will but rather a divided will, when 800,000 or more support a coalition government? Could it be that a coalition government most nearly truly represents the will of all the people? Finally, just what is wrong with a coalition government, save for the

fact that those presently in power might find themselves stripped of their power because that is the will of the majority?

MAURICE A. HARBAND.

San Francisco.

## The 'Protector'

Editor — I was appalled by Drew Pearson's comments July 23 about Eastern Europe.

The wisdom of the President's policy with respect to the present crisis in Czechoslovakia may be debated, but the statement that East European countries need the protection of Moscow, and that the presence of the Red Army there is a great economic boon to them is one that even Soviet propagandists would not expect us to believe.

A superficial review of the last twenty years' history would show that the "protection" by Moscow began with hauling away much that could be moved from these countries, and was followed by establishment of colonial type economies totally subservient to Moscow. Official United Nations statistics reveal that Hungary for instance, is committed to buy all her crude oil from the USSR at up to three times the free market price, while the Soviets pay only a fraction of free market value for Hungary's articles.

OTTO AVVAKUMOVITS.

San Rafael.

## Bury the Monster

Editor — I have heard many people defend the Embarcadero freeway because while steering three thousand pounds of machinery along at 70 miles an hour, that is when the traffic isn't bumper to bumper, they can admire the ships, the Bay and the panorama of the city. This is like trying to justify the existence of slums because the view from the roof of the tenement house is beautiful. The great number of accidents and rear-enders on this obsolete and cold

gray monolith is evidence that they certainly aren't watching the road. These freeway fanciers should get out of their cars and walk along the Embarcadero through the labyrinth of concrete abutments and then comment on the view.

While it is euphemistically referred to as a "freeway," the traffic doesn't really flow freely at all. Almost every time I have used it, the autos were at a standstill, inching along chrome to chrome.

Many critics of Mayor Alioto's plan to tear down and bury this monster object to the cost and argue that the money could be spent better elsewhere. Wouldn't the cost of burying this Edsel of highways be offset in the long run by the development of the waterfront? The barrier that exists now between the city and its waterfront certainly impedes that development . . .

CHASE WEBB.

San Francisco.

## Perception

Editor — At the end of a three-year Fulbright teaching assignment in Japan, my husband and I are sick about the feeble news coverage given in the American press to this fascinating, progressive, peace-dedicated country.

So — my compliments to your Mike Berger, who sent from Tokyo a most interesting and perceptive coverage of the recent upper house election (July 15). His views of the color and the significance of the election show a much deeper understanding of the Japanese scene than the off-the-mark comments of the national news magazines.

Singling out author Shinyaro Ishihara, whose fantastic vote total shows the overwhelming faith the Japanese people place in this bold, astute, dynamic young man, indicated that your correspondent is really with the Japanese scene.

M. J. VAN BUREN.

Maebashi, Japan.

