

LE MOINDRE #11

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FAPA Mailing 83

That was quite a chunk on Canadian politics I had in Le Moindre #10, and here comes another chunk. The subject interests me, which I consider reason enough. In the last episode we left Prime Minister Diefenbaker standing up in the House and shredding newly elected Liberal Leader Pearson, but I did not tell you the reason for this shredding. Here was Pearson the new Liberal chief, and it was generally expected that Pearson would promptly topple the Progressive Conservative government and bring about an election. Instead, he stood up and said there is this that and the other wrong with the country just now, such as unemployment, and the PC's obviously cannot handle it, and so they should step down and let the Liberals be the government. This is equivalent to the Democrats saying to the Republicans that they don't like the way the Republicans are handling things, and thus the Republicans should let the Democrats take over without the bother of an election. So, Diefenbaker poured scorn on Pearson, and a while later had Parliament dissolved, and an election was called. Liberals, CCF, and Social Credit all raised outraged cries at the iniquity of holding an election in such troublous times, and in Winter and all, but there it was. (Considering the crowds at election meetings, winter seemed not a bad time to hold an election.) After the 1953 election, the PC's had 60 plus seats (this is roughly from memory) the Liberals had 170 plus, and the remainder of the total of 265 were split between the CCF, Social Credit, and a few Independants. After the 1957 election the position was PC's 112, Liberals 109, CCF 25, Social Credit 19. This upset astounded everybody, including the PC's themselves. But this latest election, last March, was a real shocker: PC's 209, Liberals 49, CCF 7, Social Credit Nil. Even the most optimistic PC's hadn't hoped for more than 160.

In 1957 election campaign the Liberals had claimed that the then Liberal cabinet was indispensable, not only to Canada, but to World Peace and Prosperity (re-elect the Liberals and maintain coffee prices in Patagonia?) but that election most of the big men fell by the wayside. They also campaigned on the premise that they were the Party of National Unity (and the same time dashing around trying to set one section of the country against the other - an old Liberal trick) but of the 109 seats they came out of that election with, 67 were in Quebec (where the PC's had only 8) which hardly made them a national party. This past election, out of the ten provinces, the PC's took all the seats in four (possibly five - I can't remember offhand) provinces, and in six of the ten provinces the Liberals won no seats whatsoever. No longer can they claim to be the party of national unity. As noted above, the Social Credit party was completely annihilated on the Federal level, and the CCF (socialist, or, for the benefit of the English fans, Labour) was reduced to token representation. This majority the PC's now have is really too large. It was considered, when the Liberals had 170 plus seats, that that was too many, and now the PC's have approximately 30 more than that. It is to be hoped that they will resist the temptation to become as arrogant as were the Liberals, although the latter were probably encouraged in their arrogance by their long stretch in office, (22 years), so that they became convinced that they would always be the government. In this election of many surprises, one of the greatest was in Quebec, where the Liberals went from 67 seats to 25, and the PC's from 8 seats to 50. This was brought about to some extent by the Union Nationale (the ruling party in Quebec and a Political Machine) throwing its weight behind the PC's in that province. This was viewed with disfavor in many quarters, but as events turned out, the PC's could have a clear majority without any seats at all from Quebec, so the Union Nationale will not be able to bring any pressure to bear to fulfil their own ends.

Diefenbaker, wisely, did not make any promises to Quebec, saying only, in effect, "We're going on to great things. Are you with us?" Main points in Diefenbaker's platform were national development, and economic nationalism. Pearson and the Liberals, in desperation, promised a \$400,000,000.00 tax cut and various other government benefits and giveaways. The public response to that was largely "If you can cut taxes so much now, why didn't you do it when you were in power?" The public also had not forgotten that, in the 1953 election, when the PC's (then led by George Drew) had promised a \$500,000,000.00 tax cut, the Liberals had cried that it was impossible. (and the economy was more buoyant in 1953 than it is at the moment.) Pearson also viewed with noisy alarm the Diefenbaker philosophy of economic nationalism, thinking it a Bad Thing not to put all one's eggs in one basket and subject meekly to attempts at economic imperialism from south of the border. END OF CANADIAN POLITICS FOR THIS ISSUE

Considering the tape I have playing at the moment, I should be addressing comments to Bill Evans or one of the other more Fygge (Mouldie) inclined FAPA members. I've just played Bechet's Blues in Thirds through twice, it is now grinding out Beiderbecke's Royal Garden Blues, and will then run into a stack of Bessie Smith. I'll save the Presley for commenting on Gemzine, and Bach for Harry Warner. Some of my reels have a most diversified content. One has Kenton ("Progressive" period) followed by Mozart. TV continues to turn up its little nuggets. Ted White would have enjoyed at least part of a recent Camera 3 program which alternated bits from Krazy Kat and Waiting For Godot. Folio one night ran the film of Menotti's The Medium. Unfortunately, I saw only the last 20 minutes, which made me wish I had seen the whole thing. I am not an opera fan to any great extent, and had been unimpressed with the bits of Menotti I had heard previously, but this was a knock out. Shortly afterwards an irate TV viewer was raising his voice in a letter to the Globe & Mail, along the lines of How much longer do we have to put up with this Folio junk being pushed down our throats. (Always it is being "pushed down their throats" as though they were forced to watch programs they don't like. You never hear these clods complaining that hockey or baseball or football is being "pushed down their throats") Several right thinking citizens promptly tried to defend the rights of minority tastes, but back came old stuffed-gullet blowing his top about this dreadful caterwauling which was Menotti, and why couldn't we be content with Good Music, such as Galette Parisienne or whatever. It is interesting to observe that those who loudly proclaim their liking for Good Music ("Now I like Good Music, not that heavy classical stuff, but Good Music") - often in the course of denouncing Bad Music - usually turn out to like the most appalling pap, even unto brass bands. (People who talk about Good Music are Musical Prigs - possibly they tend to teach Sunday school - and should not be confused with people who talk about Serious Music in a rather stiff necked way. They are Musical Snobs who should know better.) As far as I can tell, the Brass Band is a fairly minor thing in North America, presuming it has any existence at all (whereas the ridiculous Marching Bands which turn up at football games seem to be a purely North American phenomenon) but in some other countries brass bands occur in some profusion, and some people seem to consider that no music is worthy of attention unless it is played by a brass band, and that a brass band is the ideal medium for playing any type of music. Thus, at one national brass band competition, the test "piece" was Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik. One of the local music critics (that's "egghead" in your language, G.M. Carr) commented that it sounded like a hippopotamus chasing butterflies.

THE FANTASY AMATEUR - I didn't vote on the amendments, for, by the time I had found my voting card which had disappeared, the deadline was past. I would have liked to have voted against that Laws of New York State thing.

BURLINGS c/w ELMURMURINGS - Burbee & Perdue. I am very glad that the Dump Perdue movement failed. I find his yearly oneshot of far greater interest than the annual output of some of the more active members. But Burb, are you sure you're correct in calling Spanier a New Orleans hornman? Surely he plays Chicago style, not New Orleans.

OFF THE CUFF FOR GERTRUDE - Harris. This is wonderful, but you should have learnt by now not to underestimate G.M. Carr's capacity for obtuseness. I won't be at all surprised if she takes seriously your little jest about the fine old fannish families of Hartnett and Troetschel not even being on the FAPA waiting list. These days her writings are tending to show a surprising similarity to those of G----- W-----. # It is most interesting to learn that it was originally decided that nominees for Taff should be fairly well known to both British and American fans. Did somebody forget to tell Don Ford?

CLAUSE - Sanderson. Nice to see all this flag waving, but don't you think it's rather dangerous to make all these revelations to Americans? If they learn that they didn't invent everything, but everything, they're liable to go into shock. # Joy Clarke says, regarding articles on Royalty, "We who have to read about them..." Why do you have to read this stuff? Don't you find significant G.M. Carr gleeing at the Dowager Marchioness of Londonderry laying out her "audacious" grandson? The Marchioness is elderly and female, the grandson is young and male. He holds differing opinions from his grandmother. In G.M. Carr's eyes this makes him "audacious". The grandmother clobbers him, G.M. Carr gleans. I don't think I need spell it out. # No other comments, Sandy, but I enjoyed this whole thing immensely. Hope you continue to put out such zines.

NULL-F - White. Ted, I think you're wasting your time trying to argue some sense into GMC about jazz. Opinion regarding the music itself is one thing, but fact is fact, and if GMC wants to have her own erroneous idea of what is jazz, why not let her be happy with it? Is it really so important to you that GMC is talking a lot of crap on a subject of which she knows nothing. She is opinionated, stubborn, and sometimes quite stupid, and it is pointless to waste space going over the same thing again and again. When she makes fugghead noises on a subject like this, it should be enough to make your counter argument, and then ignore her subsequent fulminations. # On reading further, I see that you realize it is no point in trying to shake that monumental smugness of hers. You just can't win, so why bother?

DRIFTWOOD - Dunn. I wish you appeared in FAPA more often. Why not give us your standard European Tour lecture?

LARK - Danner. TV tape can be erased and used over and over again, so the cost of the reels is a minor matter. As McCain mentioned, video tape is far superior to kinescope. Mosquito repellants are o.k. up to a point, but mosquitos bite me in the most unlikely places, and thus I'd have to cover myself all over with the stuff. Much easier if bitten to take a pyrobenzamine pill which stops the bites itching.

GLEZINE 4:18 - G.M. Carr. Yes, I did know what I was saying, whereas obviously you did not understand what I said. I was not referring to "an art form that came along 20 or 30 years later..." I was talking about the real jazz of the twenties, as opposed to what you think was the jazz of the twenties. McCain and White have been talking about the same thing, but you are either too stupid to understand what they are trying to tell you, or just don't want to understand them. As I really don't care that you are talking a lot of nonsense about this matter, this subject is closed in FAPA as far as I'm concerned. It is interesting to learn that Don Ford looks upon fanzine fans as being fuggheads. I am tempted to go to the Midwescon this year just to see him tell Bloch and Tucker that he thinks they are fuggheads. # Your statement that you take statements literally (even though you don't always) is a clue to your curious interpretations of peoples' words at times. # You apparently look on The Reporter as not only giving a false Picture of the United States, but also as being a Left Wing magazine which only by luck has escaped being suppressed by the government. Fairly recently the Canadian Manufacturers Association, in the course of quoting with approval in one of their publications an excerpt from the Reporter, spoke very highly of The Reporter itself, considering it a Right Thinking, goshwow type of magazine. The CMA is a large, highly respected organization. Most, if not all, large Canadian manufacturing companies belong to it, as do the Canadian subsidiaries of a number of U.S. companies. Reflect, when you are buying some soap, that the company which makes it has a subsidiary in Canada which

belongs to an organization which approves of The Reporter. Nasty Left Wing soap. Reflect that it is quite likely that the refrigeration equipment in which Mr. Carr deals is manufactured by a company or companies which have subsidiaries which belong to an organization which approves of a Left Wing magazine. Do you think it in accordance with your ideals to live on the proceeds of selling equipment manufactured by a sympathiser with a Front?

PAMPHREY - Willis. A beautiful job of exposing GMC's warped thinking, but I doubt that it will do much good. Your "cable to Hoover" is very funny, but it would seem to contain enough fact to have really sunk GMC if she had ever been subjected to a McCarthy-type "investigation" in view of this quote from J.V. McAree in the Globe & Mail. "McCarthyism is dead, as has been said many times and is generally believed. This does not mean, however, that those he and his gang of yahoos have injured have recovered from the wounds inflicted on them. At least one distinguished victim does not know whether his career has been ruined. That is Professor Warren B. Austin, who has been teaching English at the City College of New York for twenty-six years. What has been proved against Professor Austin is that he once had a friend named Morris Schappes, also a former City College professor and once a member of the Communist Party. Professor Austin had also taken part in a May Day parade in 1937 which may have been organized by the Communists at which had many non-communists in it and which, according to The New York Times, contained 70,000 people. Professor Austin denied that he was ever a Communist or took part in the activities of the party. No evidence has been produced to shake his denials. The professor was given two hearings by a Special Committee in 1954 and 1955 and was presumably cleared. The next year he was passed over, to his great surprise and the surprise of his colleagues, for the post of associate professor. He questioned the president of the college and was told that he had been passed over because he had not yet been cleared by the Special Committee which was continuing to investigate his case. It was later suggested to him that he might save himself embarrassment by resigning. This he refused to consider and asked for another confrontation with his accusers. This was refused, and the next day he read that he had been suspended. He was notified of his disgrace while giving a lecture. He remains under suspension at this writing and does not yet know whether his dismissal and disgrace are permanent, which might make it almost impossible for him to obtain a comparable position in any other American college. Another trial was ordered, this time by a three-man committee, and it has held hearings. Before these began the Special Committee had been disbanded but the Austin case happened to be something that had been left over. The new committee introduced another charge. It was to the effect that Austin had been detected in taking a course in the Russian language "which had no visible relation to his work as an instructor in the English department." It also turned out that Austin had received from Schappes, from time to time, various Communist publications, and obtained for himself various Communist publications. Nothing could be more natural and innocent than Austin's explanation. He wanted to understand communism and went to the authorities. To assume, therefore, that he wanted to be a communist or to preach communism would surely be a long leap in the dark, the sort of leap that Senator McCarthy made notorious in the days of his power." Oh poop. This goes on some more, but I find I'm running out of room, and shouldn't use so much space for a quotation anyway. Will just mention though that the professor's daughter lost her job as a phone operator because of the publicity her father had incurred. Sure, the innocent have nothing to fear.

Target:Fapa - Eney. I'm finishing this up late at night and in a hurry so I can get it away to you tomorrow, so haven't time to check up on earlier zines, but as I recall, the original argument with Calkins wasn't about Suez - he was wailing about all these horrid furrin countries wanting to twist Ike round their little fingers, and the poor put on Americans being done dirt by all these nasty sharpies.

My company has just bought a new Gestetner (I wouldn't let them get any other brand of mimeo) with automatic inking, which is a goshwow thing. I ran off the first two pages of this issue on the machine to see if my lousy repro was due to the machine I'd been using or my lousy stencil cutting - turned out to be the latter. However, the machine being slightly out of adjustment caused a few foul-ups, with the result that the first two pages are rather messy. Sorry.