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JOTTINGS

from the editor's desk

BALLANTINE BOOKS is in the process of publishing an "Illustrated History of World War II", with each volume devoted to a battle or campaign or some special facet of the conflict, and written by a recognized expert in the field. The 5½ x 8 inch books, richly illustrated with photographs and maps, are sturdy, stiff-covered "paperbacks", printed on thick paper, with neat, small print--a real bargain at \$1 apiece. One of those published so far is "Panzer Division: The Mailed Fist", by British military historian Kenneth Macksey. It is easy to find petty criticisms of Macksey--he is a sloppy stylist on occasion, he goes off the deep end in praising the élan and superhuman prowess of the German tank soldiers, and he is rather too harsh in his judgment of the Anglo-American supreme command in the Ardennes offensive. But these are very petty criticisms indeed, and "Panzer Division: The Mailed Fist" is a fine book. Macksey manages to condense into 160 pages the entire history of the Panzer formations, from the birth of the divisions and the tactical doctrine underlying their use in the early 1930's to the collapse of the Thousand Year Reich in 1945. In the process, he neatly and concisely describes every campaign in which they played an important role: Poland, the defeat of France, the North African battles, the panoramic campaigns on the Eastern Front, the Allied invasion of France, and the final, hopeless battles on German soil. In addition, there are the photographs, numerous battle maps, technical information about the types of tanks and other related weapons involved, and brisk, effective portraits of the men who commanded the great Panzer thrusts--von Manstein, Guderian, Rommel, Hoth, von Kleist, von Manteuffel. And, of course, like any book about German military strategy and tactics in World War II, it is also, perforce, about the erratic and ruinous interventions which Hitler was prone to make, time and time again compelling the waste of whole corps and armies in useless attacks and even more useless last stands. Although Hitler was an early Panzer en-

thusiast and thought higher of the judgment of his tank commanders than of most, the Panzer formations suffered more, if anything, from his excursions into irrationality than the regular Wehrmacht, particularly on the Russian front. For which we must all be grateful, of course, since the war might have been longer and, for us, a good deal bloodier without Hitler's interventions.

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW: If you attended a New Year's Eve party, you probably noticed it. The celebrating seemed to have a special quality of urgency about it. Beneath the cheers and huzzahs, there was an undertone, never well defined but perceptible, of false hopefulness and almost pathetic pleading for the future. The celebration had little to do with any pleasant anticipation of 1969; what America celebrated was the fact that 1968 was at last over and done with. Oh, I suppose there are people who feel that way every December 31st, and as the passage of time lends perspective a more balanced appraisal of the year may be possible. But I don't doubt that a great many Americans share the opinion, at present, that 1968 was the most disastrous year in our history. For those of us who have experienced a year of personal health and prosperity, the irony is marked. I feel almost embarrassed because I didn't break a leg or have my house burn down or something equally dreadful in 1968. That would have been the year for it. The mere recounting of the disasters, difficulties and aggravations that have punctuated the year is a task I would not assign to my worst enemy, and I shall leave it to the television networks to compile in the course of their January news reviews. You know the list as well as I anyway. Suffice it to say that so long and lurid is the catalogue that the Nigerian civil war, with the daily starving of thousands of children, has been largely ignored even by those of us who consider ourselves aware and concerned individuals. A year in which the starvation of perhaps a half-million children in one small area can be overlooked is a horrible year by any definition. And the worst of it is, of course, that there is no reasonable basis for the belief that 1969 will be any better, and even the most frantic celebrant knew it. The problems which produced most of the national disasters of 1968 have been developing for a long time--some of them for three hundred years--and they have not come any closer to solution just because 200,000,000 Americans, acting as one man and with a sigh of relief, tore a page off of a calendar. America remains in 1969, as in 1968, a sick society, practicing imperialism abroad and racism at home, a society of increasing conflict, discord and violence. It just may be, as appalling as the thought is, that in a couple of years 1968 may even seem like a relatively good year.

SPEAKING OF 1968, as we were just a silly milimeter ago, I wrote a letter to Dave Van Arnam on January 25, 1968, in which I offered some predictions with regard to the war in Vietnam. Having recently exhumed from a desk drawer the carbon of that letter, I thought it might be interesting to see how I fared. Rather good in some respects, but not particularly good in others. Here is the relevant paragraph:

"American casualties are increasing (218 died last week, and nothing really happened until the Thursday), and are soon going to get a lot worse. Next week the Tet lull... then all hell is going to bust loose. The press is and will be concentrating on the DMZ area, particularly Khe Sanh, but the PAVN offensive is going to take place not only in I Corps, but in III Corps and maybe II Corps as well. All of the big battles will be American victories,

of course, just like last year's at Hill #881, Loc Ninh, Dak To, Bu Dop. Names you might keep in mind for this year: Hoa Hiep, Bu Prang, Dak Gle, Duc Co, Duc Lap."

I can't be faulted on the first statement, concerning US casualties: they did get a lot worse, and very soon indeed. The reference to "the Tet lull" requires an explanation. I knew, by Jan. 25th, that there was going to be a major Viet Minh offensive launched around Tet (which put me one up on Gen. Westmoreland; among others), but I assumed that, following their standard practice, the Viet Minh would observe the truce at the beginning and jump the gun on the end of it to start their attacks. Instead, they launched the offensive right at the beginning of the proclaimed truce. That, however, is a fairly minor detail. The assertion that "all hell is going to bust loose" is another statement that I can't hardly be faulted on. The succeeding sentence, however, is an indication of what I expected: a lot more than the US Command expected, but a lot less than the Viet Minh actually did. I recall a newsman observing after the Tet attacks that "We thought they had a capability the US Command hadn't counted on, but we never dreamed we were so right." That describes my feeling, too. It's rather embarrassing to realize the extent to which I had accepted, almost subliminally, the view of all US officials and many otherwise competent journalists that the Viet Cong, as distinguished from the North Vietnamese, were not capable of really major military efforts. I refer to the impending "PAVN offensive", whereas the Tet attacks turned out to be largely a Viet Cong effort; and I ignored IV Corps, the Delta, altogether in writing about the coming attacks. As for the five suggested locations for major battles, throwing that in was a bit of pretentiousness on my part. Obviously, nobody could know where major attacks were going to take place, but it sounded good to close the paragraph with such a list. Not that those locations were unreasonable choices--all are vulnerable installations, with a close proximity to border sanctuaries. There actually was a major battle at Duc Lap, but then, there were equally fierce engagements at about 57 other places that weren't on my list, so that's meaningless.

FAMOUS UNKNOWN PEOPLE #3: In the annals of American college football, there is no name more famous than that of Noguri "Hopalong" Watanabe, the left-footed place kicker who is acknowledged to be the greatest athlete in the history of Mother Benson's College of Business Management in Mole Hole, Arkansas. Watanabe was born August 11, 1933, in the Japanese quarter of Peshkawanee, Michigan, the son of his mother and father. He became interested in football during the early years of the war, when his family was interned in a concentration camp. Noguri's father, a croquet wicket bender by trade, taught him the game in his spare time, and it quickly became apparent that the boy had a natural aptitude for the game, especially for kicking the ball. After the war, young Watanabe played football for Peshkawanee's most famous high school team, the General George Gordon Meade Manual Trades School Puce Wolfpack. (The sports buffs in the audience will of course be aware that a number of famous players besides Watanabe emerged from the Puce Wolfpack, among them "Swivelhips" Kazinsky, "Straight Arm" Wockenfuss and Bruce "Mincy" LaRue.) It was in high school that Noguri acquired the nickname "Hopalong", as the result of the manner in which he ran up to the kick-off line during a game in which he played four quarters with his jock strap on backwards. He entered college in 1951, selecting Mother Benson's not only because of its justly famous athletic program but also because its academic standards were the most challenging in central southwestern Arkansas. During his four seasons with the Benson Bombers (1951-1954), Hopalong Watanabe kicked the extra point af-

ter all three of the team's touchdowns, accounted for all of the team's scoring through field goals in seventeen different games, and, due to a broken play, ran the ball once, losing 73 yards. (The description of that play runs four pages of fine print...) After his graduation, Watanabe received offers from several professional football teams, but turned them all down in order to pursue a career as the sole owner of a taco stand in Encinada, California, where he remains to this day.

"THE HUMAN REVOLUTION", by Ashley Montagu, is the sort of thing I read for a change of pace from wars. Originally a series of lectures delivered in 1963 at the National Science Foundation Summer Institute in Anthropology, this book is a comprehensive study of the physical, psychological and cultural evolution which, beginning with the australopithicines, eventually produced the lovable bunch of bastards known as us. And according to Dr. Montagu we are, or at least could be, 'a lovable bunch indeed, for his thesis is that cooperation and friendliness, rather than competition and aggressiveness, are the "natural" state of man. One would certainly like to believe it, and Montagu argues impressively (if not altogether convincingly) against Robert Ardrey, Konrad Lorenz and other prominent chroniclers of Homo sapiens' aggressive instincts (Montagu, in fact, denies that man has any "instincts", properly called). Some of his comments on the contentions of spokesmen for the "natural killer" school of thought are admirably biting, and one has the impression that Dr. Montagu would feel at home ripping and slashing in the letter column of Psychotic. But no matter if you accept his principal thesis, "The Human Revolution" is worth reading for its anthropological detail--chapters on the origin of speech, the evolution of the human breast, the adaptive value of weeping as opposed to dry crying (crying with tears preserves the usefulness of the mucous membrane), the origin of human laughter, etc. Despite a somewhat tedious prose style, "The Human Revolution" is a fascinating and highly recommended volume.

THE ARAB GUERILLAS of the various Palestine liberation groups, of which the Jordan-based El Fatah is the largest and best organized, have been getting a good deal of publicity lately in the US news media, with film reports on the network news telecasts, features in several Sunday magazines and even a Time cover story. Real guerilla warfare in the Middle East seems some time off, but it may be coming. The potential has existed since the first Arab-Israeli war, and the techniques of insurgency are morally neutral--given the minimal political conditions, they work for any group, regardless of race, creed, color or political outlook (in some sections of Laos, for instance, Meo tribesmen trained and led by the CIA drive the Viet Minh up the wall, despite the latter's expertise in the field). Until recently, however, the Arabs have employed guerilla techniques only to a limited degree, and with no particular success. Now there are clear signs that the effectiveness of their commando operations is increasing, and since the June, 1967, defeat more emphasis has been placed on such operations. The Palestinian organizations have a super-abundance of dedicated recruits and materiel of all sorts, and the quality of their training has improved markedly. The major weakness of El Fatah and the lesser splinters is their failure to develop a political apparatus (infrastructure) in Israel and the occupied territory. Their political base remains resolutely external, i.e., among the Palestinian refugees of Jordan and Egypt. This failure is particularly damaging because the Israelis, despite their military expertise, are heavy-handed and therefore poor counter-insurgents, so the potential for a working infrastructure is increasing all the time as the commando raids force Israel to tighten security measures to the

point of repression. The lack of such a political apparatus may prevent the Arab guerillas from moving beyond the commando/terrorist phase of operations. Connected with this failure of the political structure to develop in pace with the military arm is the seeming absence among the Fedayeen leaders of any goal beyond agitating the situation into another all-out war. A lot of the blame for this belongs to the Arab governments, who still apparently believe that Israel can be beaten by conventional arms and conventional means. It will probably take another Arab-Israeli war and another humiliating beating to disabuse the Arab leaders of this notion and convince them--emotionally, as well as intellectually--that the victory they seek can be achieved (if at all) only through unconventional means. When that realization occurs and is acted upon, the state of Israel's real troubles will begin.

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION: In a month top-heavy with television extravaganzas, the majority conspicuous flops, the December 11th presentation by Richard Nixon of his cabinet appointees was somehow appropriate. If Nixon's "special" accomplished nothing else, it should at least insure that future President-elect's return to the old, established format of dribbling the cabinet names a few at a time. The one-shot presentation, in addition to being reminiscent of an introduction of the College All-Americans or the finalists in the Montgomery Ward salesman-of-the-year contest, was a dismally dull production. It's all right to hear a man praised as not only competent but possessing that "extra dimension" so critical in high position, but by the seventh or eighth time it becomes a trifle repetitive. The calibre of the men did not contribute much to the evening, either. With two exceptions, the Nixon cabinet consists of mediocrities, including even some retreads from the Eisenhower Administration. Mr. Nixon promised us "the finest talent in the country"; if this is it, we're worse off than I thought. Nixon even highlighted their lack of specialized knowledge by boasting that they were interchangeable. We have a Secretary of State who knows so little about foreign affairs that he might just as easily have been appointed to Justice or Commerce. How wonderful!

The only exceptions to the panorama of the prosaic are Robert Lynch, HEW appointee, who shows enough promise to warrant withholding judgment, and Melvin Laird, Secretary of Defense-designate, who is considered to have one of the best minds in Congress. Laird, of course, would appear at first glance to be a hard-nosed Hawk, but the example of Clark Clifford should amply demonstrate the dubious value of first glances. Besides, there don't seem to be any Hawks these days, and Laird, at least, has always described himself as a pessimist, which is a hopeful sign (pessimism being the first step on the short and, of late, well-traveled road between Hawk and Dove). Lynch and Laird, along with White House staffers Henry Kissinger and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, represent the whole of the interesting part of the Nixon Administration. But then, I suppose we should be grateful at that. After all, a man who picked Spiro T. Agnew as his running mate might have been expected to select a cabinet from the managerial staff of the Whittier Paper Bag Co.

THE WAR, DECEMBER 14-DECEMBER 31: Whenever the US Mission is engaged in one of its periodic efforts to saturate the media with tales of how splendidly well everything is going, a good antidote is to look at the two big coastal provinces of II Corps, Binh Dinh and Phu Yen. It is here that the maximum sustained effort of the Allies has subjected the Viet Minh to their heaviest pressure, ever since the arrival of the 1st Air Cavalry Div. and a large South Korean contingent in 1965, and the war has been "going well" there for about as long as most Americans can remember. The catch, of course, is that

it keeps going, despite the repeated defeat of the Viet Minh main force elements, despite thousands of enemy dead and as many defectors in 1966 as the rest of the country combined, despite the highest degree of "security" attained anywhere in South Vietnam. The Allies have been as successful in Binh Dinh and Phu Yen as they are ever likely to be anywhere, but all of the "success" has not accomplished anything fundamental (during the fall of 1967, pacification fell apart as readily in Binh Dinh and Phu Yen as in any other provinces; during the Tet offensive, the cities there were hit just as hard as the cities of any other region). The war will probably still be "going well" in coastal II Corps in 1975, if the United States is silly enough to still be fighting it then.

December 14: This week's Newsweek contains two interesting unrelated bits of information: The North Vietnamese are constructing a petroleum pipeline from around the 19th Parallel south to PAVN bases above the DMZ; and most of the chickens imported from the US after Tet to replace those lost by farmers have turned up in backyard poultry farms of local officials (what's new?). According to the Laotian Defense Ministry, heavy fighting continues in and around the town of Thateng, seized yesterday by Viet Minh units, and Royal Lao forces are attempting to drive them out. When they leave, it'll be because they decided to pull out on their own or were bombed out by American planes; the Royal Laotian Army couldn't drive a pack of cub scouts out of a discotheque. ARVN HQ has extended the "red alert" in the capital district to include Bien Hoa, Long Binh and the provincial capital of Vung Tau. American officials, for the record, dismiss the possibility of an imminent attack on the capital. Nevertheless, the US Command imposed a curfew in Saigon tonight for American military personnel. Before dawn, the Viet Minh hit a variety of ARVN outposts in an arc around the capital with rocket and mortar fire. Two US fire-bases northwest of Saigon were also shelled, but no major ground action was reported.

December 15: Clark Clifford, who is already not exactly popular in Saigon, said in a TV interview that the US doesn't really care about such details as the shape of the conference table, nameplates, etc.; rather, it's the Saigon government which is unnecessarily delaying the opening of talks by "squabbling" about such things. When the talks do begin, the Saigon contingent will be short one person. On Thursday or Friday, the VC captured Tran Thi Ho Le, an 18-year-old girl from Long An Province who defected earlier this year and was turned into a symbol for the Chieu Hoi program. Le was one of several Viet Minh defectors now working for the Saigon propaganda arm named to go to Paris. This morning, the Viet Minh shelled three district capitals and three military installations, and there were clashes north and west of Saigon, in the Delta and on the coast below Da Nang.

December 16: The full NFL delegation arrived in Paris today, demanding an immediate start to the four-party talks. The US released 7 more North Vietnamese sailors off the coast of Vinh, and there is talk that Hanoi may release some US pilots before Christmas. Before dawn, the Viet Minh shelled two provincial capitals and several ARVN outposts, and there were scattered clashes from the Delta to the DMZ. Northwest of Saigon, the US and the Viet Minh exchanged ambushes. A platoon of the 25th Infantry Div. ambushed a sampan carrying VC soldiers on the Saigon River about 30 miles from the capital. The more familiar kind of ambush took place 42 miles northwest of Saigon, when the Viet Minh hit a US convoy, killing 5 Americans and knocking out a couple of trucks.

December 17: It seems that Miss Le, the 18-year-old Hoi Chanh, may be in Paris after all; three days after being captured by the VC, she escaped and is now back in Saigon. In a delayed report, the US Command announced "Operation Taylor Common", a drive by 5000 Marines and

the usual token force of ARVN into the mountains 30 miles southwest of Da Nang. The operation started Dec. 7th, and contact has been fairly light so far. The Viet Minh shelled Da Nang airbase and the US airfield at Ban Me Thuot this morning, and there were engagements northwest and northeast of Saigon, near Quang Ngai and in the Delta.

December 18: There hasn't been a full Intelligence analysis of enemy strength since early in the year (one is overdue), but a recent Defense Department analysis of North Vietnamese Army strength in the two tactical theatres (South Vietnam and Laos) is interesting. According to this study, there are now 140,000-160,000 PAVN in the South, just above the DMZ, or in Cambodia and Laos. Those identified as being in Laos presumably include not only troops in base camps just across the border, but also those permanently operating in Laos, including some in the far northern provinces of that country, hundreds of miles from any South Vietnamese battlefield. However, even discounting these, that leaves 110,000-130,000. When you add the minimum US figure of 40,000 main force Viet Cong (there are probably many more, but this is the rock bottom figure), it means that, according to this Defense Department report, there are now 150,000-170,000 main force Viet Minh in the southern tactical area--a number substantially higher than the previous high estimate (of 120,000-130,000). Before dawn, the Viet Minh shelled the provincial capital of Tam Ky and launched light ground attacks on ARVN outposts on the edge of the city. They also shelled a Navy supply depot and the Marble Mountain helicopter field at Da Nang, Nha Be, a US base camp northwest of Saigon, two other provincial capitals, the district capital of Loc Ninh, 25th Infantry Div. HQ at Cu Chi, and several other targets. ARVN defenders suffered heavy casualties when a government hamlet in the Highlands was overrun, and there were clashes north and northwest of Saigon and southwest of Da Nang.

December 19: In Paris, Ambassador Vance warned the North Vietnamese that a major offensive against Saigon "could" result in a resumption of US bombing of the DRV. Originally, US spokesmen claimed that the bombing cessation was contingent upon there not being any attacks, including shellings, on South Vietnamese cities and towns, but subsequently this has been whittled down to where it is now US policy that even an all-out assault on the capital might not necessarily lead to a resumption of the bombing. Today, however, Vance emphasized the "might" rather than the "might not"; his statements appear to be intended primarily to shift attention away from the quarrel between Washington and Saigon which has lately been the main feature in Paris. The Viet Cong announced via their clandestine radio that they are willing to release some American prisoners, but there's a catch: US representatives must meet with VC officers southwest of Tay Ninh on Christmas day to arrange details. Such a meeting would constitute a form of recognition for the NFL, so if the US Command agrees the Saigon generals will immediately go into cardiac arrest. Last week, casualties increased for all forces, with total Allied casualties of approximately 2500, including 222 Americans and 198 ARVN killed. According to UPI, guerillas have surrounded a town in northern Thailand, near the US airbase at Takhli; the base is on red alert. Also according to UPI, fighting continues near the Lao-tian town of Thateng. Meanwhile, back in South Vietnam, the Viet Minh shelled four US base camps northwest of Saigon, and a Marine camp near the DMZ was mortared from positions in the zone. However, no significant ground action was reported.

December 20: The US has apparently agreed to the Christmas day meeting to arrange for the release of prisoners held by the Viet Cong. Since the first of the month, Saigon police have arrested about 400 suspected VC agents, most recently including the publisher and an editor of one of the city's French-language newspapers. There were reportedly

2272 Hoi Chanh (defectors) in November. This is somewhat lower than the October total (lower than any of the October totals--there were at least three different figures for that month), though still high by comparison with earlier in the year. US Intelligence is now predicting a major attack on Saigon around the beginning of the year. Elements of four Viet Minh divisions placed in the Cambodian border area have reportedly moved closer to the capital, and one "highly placed officer" says that as many as 65 main force battalions could be committed to the offensive. This morning, the Viet Minh shelled three provincial capitals and eight military installations in various sections of the country. There was a battle near the district capital of Trang Bang, 25 miles northwest of Saigon, and other clashes north of the capital and on the central coast.

December 21: General Thieu said this morning that his government has given its approval for the US to meet with VC representatives near Tay Ninh on Wednesday (that's nice, since the US Command had already decided to do it). Thieu also threatened to have the Saigon delegation leave Paris if the Viet Minh attack Saigon. Before dawn, several ARVN outposts and camps northwest of Saigon were shelled. Several US river craft were ambushed just west of the capital, and there were clashes north and southwest of Saigon, and in the Highlands.

December 22: The Paris talks are now at a complete standstill. They have been for weeks, of course, but now it's a standstill with no prospect of imminent change, and most US officials are pessimistic. The basic problem is the Saigon government's absolute refusal to consider any procedural formula which implies any kind of recognition of the NFL as a separate entity. Thieu & Co. are afraid, with some justification, that if they recognize the Front, even indirectly or by omission, the whole business will start to fall apart back in Vietnam. Early this morning, the Viet Minh attacked and partially overran a 25th Infantry Div. camp 44 miles northwest of Saigon, killing 17 Americans. There were other clashes north of the capital and south of Da Nang, and after dark a Viet Minh unit attacked and inflicted heavy casualties on an ARVN company 16 miles southeast of Saigon.

December 23: Vice President Ky likes to talk, and very little of what he says can be taken seriously. Still, he gave an interesting interview to CBS, in which he observed that the Saigon regime will have to recognize the NFL as a "reality" and negotiate with it. At another point, he referred to the Other Folks as being "composed of two elements as they always claim: North Vietnamese and the Front." As usual with Ky's statements, this has subsequently been revised and qualified into unrecognizability (Ky is the Spiro Agnew of the Orient), but it's interesting all the same. Before dawn, the Viet Minh shelled 9th Infantry Div. HQ at Dong Tam and the US airbases at Da Nang, Pleiku and Kontum. There was a sharp battle southwest of Da Nang, and a Marine patrol was ambushed near Hoi An, but generally little ground action was reported.

December 24: Theoretically, the NFL's 72-hour Christmas truce began early this morning, though as usual the period means only a reduction, not a cessation, of incidents. There is a hope and, it seems, among government officials and journalistic commentators, the assumption that this will be the last Christmas truce, i.e., the last Christmas at which there will be a need for a truce. Well, we all hope, of course, but assumption is something else. About this Administration there is no longer serious doubt--they are so sick and tired of pouring blood and treasure into the hole that, left in power, they would end the thing long before next winter. No one can be sure, unfortunately, that Nixon will not revert to form after the inauguration, or that, even if he begins with the right instincts, he will not be tempted by the military's assertions that, given another six months or a year, they

can win a victory. Never mind that they've been saying that for five years, and have already cost one President his second term and his place in history--Nixon may be tempted all the same. Early this morning, the Viet Minh shelled 7 ARVN outposts north and west of Saigon, and launched a ground attack on one. A US bivouac northwest of the capital was shelled after dark. However, no significant ground action was reported.

December 25: Several hundred students staged an anti-war demonstration in Saigon yesterday; police dispersed them with clubs. The US-NFL meeting northwest of Saigon did not result in the release of any prisoners. However, the 2½-hour meeting was described as "cordial" and another is reportedly planned. During the Allies' 24-hour truce, 133 enemy violations were recorded (there were 118 last Christmas), but no significant fighting was reported anywhere in South Vietnam.

December 26: Stewart Alsop writes in his Newsweek column, "All those who know the facts agree that the military situation is more favorable to our side than it has been at least since the murder of Ngo Dinh Diem, back in 1963." Sure, baby. US Intelligence is still predicting an attack on Saigon by about 25,000 main force Viet Minh on or after Jan. 1st. In 1963, the Viet Minh had barely 25,000 men in all of South Vietnam. An attack on Saigon was not even viewed as a remotely serious possibility in 1963--or 1964, 1965, 1966 or even 1967. Last week, claimed enemy losses remained virtually unchanged; total Allied casualties declined somewhat to around 2150, including 151 Americans and 202 ARVN killed. Ground action was confined to minor clashes northwest of Saigon, south of Da Nang and in the Delta. In Laos, Pathet Lao/Viet Minh forces still hold the town of Thateng, and are now threatening Pak Song, 15 miles south of Thateng and 30 miles east of Pakse.

December 27: The Saigon regime plans to try before a military court 30 leaders of that student anti-war demonstration the other day. The US expeditionary corps presently has 15 battalion-sized or larger operations underway, a fairly normal number these days. A year ago, there were usually 40 or more such sweeps in progress at any given time. Before dawn, the Viet Minh shelled 7 military camps northwest of Saigon and inflicted heavy casualties on a Popular Forces unit in a village a few miles south of the capital. There were clashes south of Da Nang, near An Loc and near Quang Ngai.

December 28: The NFL has proposed a meeting with US officers on New Year's Day to further discuss the release of several American prisoners, the meeting to be held in the same place as the Christmas contact. The US will almost certainly accept. The US Command announced that Camp Carroll, once the major artillery base at the DMZ and lately unemployed, is being abandoned. This morning, the Viet Minh shelled Can Tho and attacked an ARVN unit near Tam Ky, but no major ground action was reported.

December 29: Twelve South Vietnamese press representatives assigned to the Paris conference have been abruptly dismissed by the Saigon Ministry of Information. No reason is given, but it appears to be the usual Thieu vs. Ky thing. Their dismissal was announced by the Minister of Information, Nguyen Van An, who has just assumed that office following the resignation of Ton That Thien, an American favorite. (After the sacking of Gen. Nguyen Duc Thang, Thien became the US Embassy's candidate for "the most talented, honest man in the government". Now they'll have to find somebody else to laud--probably Tran Van Huong.) Before dawn, the Viet Minh shelled two district capitals and several military installations in III Corps, and two US helicopters were shot down. The only major ground action reported today was the ambush of an ARVN Ranger battalion in the An Hoa Valley, south of Da Nang. In Laos, a Viet Minh battalion launched a harassing attack on the town of Atto-

peu; the Laotian Defense Ministry also reports artillery fire on the provincial capital of Saravane.

December 30: The US Command confirms that it will send representatives to meet with VC officers near Tay Ninh on New Year's Day to discuss the release of three US prisoners. The NFL's 72-hour New Year's truce began at 1:00 AM today Saigon time, notwithstanding which a US bivouac and five ARVN installations north and northwest of Saigon were shelled before dawn. Two more helicopters were shot down today, but no significant fighting was reported.

December 31: According to US Intelligence, PAVN infiltration during November was 6000-7000, a figure which, if accurate, is probably the lowest of the year. The latest reports on the enemy's armored capability say that the Viet Minh have at least 50 tanks in areas of southern Laos and Cambodia bordering western II Corps and III Corps. These include modern Soviet tanks that are heavier than the tanks the US employs in Vietnam. Before dawn, the Viet MMinh shelled a US artillery base near An Khe and a police station east of Saigon, but no significant fighting was reported anywhere.

A TRIP TO THE MOON: The flight of Apollo 8 sure was a grabber, wasn't it? It was enough to rejuvenate a sagging sense of wonder, despite it being surrounded by dry technical procedures expressed in dry technical language invented by dry technical engineers and designed to snuff out every hint of adventure and romance--qualities which are, after all, erratic and unpredictable and therefore no proper part of the Wonderful World of Engineering. But the event itself transcended and transformed the methodology. Hundreds of thousands of years ago, when the first being recognizable as Man looked up into the sky, he saw that circle of white, wondered, and said "Unghhh!" Ever since, generation after generation, century following century, historical epoch after historical epoch, man has looked at the moon and wanted to go Out There, to see, to understand. In the generation of our parents, man was no closer to the moon than he had been at the time of that original grunt. Only now, in the 1960's, has a new era of history begun, the age of man in space--and now truly in space, rather than Earth's atmosphere, for the first time. A fantastic adventure, no matter how dull they try to make it sound by surrounding it with routine procedures, built-in redundancy and initialese. And "controversial"--some say that the United States is "rushing" things, that the orbital flight came too early, that the landing will come too soon, that it's too dangerous. Perhaps it's my background as a science fiction reader, but I find something irritating about the way in which the Great Leap Outward is conducted--not that too many risks are taken, but that, in fact, practically none are. Not that I want astronauts to get killed, of course, but space travel is supposed to be dangerous, damnit, not as routine as a commercial flight between New York and Detroit. Pioneers take chances; that's one of the definitions of being a pioneer. We should be planning, right now, for a Mars orbital flight within three years. It's technically feasible, I think, but of course too dangerous. One can't help feeling that if the seamen of Western Europe had operated the way NASA operates, the New World wouldn't have been discovered until around 1650.

NOTES ON THE PUEBLO AFFAIR: There are several curious aspects to the Pueblo incident, none more so than the diplomatic maneuver which secured the release of the surviving crewmen. It was surely one of the most remarkable in the long and convoluted history of diplomacy. The United States signed a confession of its guilt

CONTINUED AFTER "MATTER IN MOTION"

the fnork speaks

A COLUMN BY JAY KINNEY

MUSIC AND SUCH NONSENSE: Currently there is some sort of sniping campaign being carried out against the Beatles by the New Left press. First the Movement, then the Guardian and now even Ramparts have all had their little articles criticizing the Beatles for "Revolution" and praising the Rolling Stones for "Street Fighting Man". What it all boils down to is that the Beatles come out against destruction, massive change without any direction or plan, ineffective demonstrations such as carrying pictures of Mao, while they come out for changing the world, freeing each person's mind, and simply for Love in general. This strikes the New Left as being Counter-Revolutionary. The Beatles aren't in there throwing bricks at "pigs" quite as solidly as the New Left had presumed.

The Rolling Stones, on the other hand, are seen as true Revolutionaries by the New Left press. "It's time for fighting in the streets". While this is at best a naive lyric and whatever it is it is not particularly applauding the fact that it is time, the New Left obviously digs it more than the Beatles' "You ain't going to get anywhere carrying pictures of Chairman Mao..." Actually, at the end of their song the Rolling Stones come out for the individual and his personal way of life (doing his own thing, i.e., playing in a rock and roll band...). But the Radicals overlook this and instead play up the Rolling Stones' image of rebellion and bravado.

However one interprets the songs, though, I do think that it is a dangerous and discouraging sign for the New Left to already be out branding Art and Music according to "Revolutionary" and "Counter-Revolutionary" labels. Such labels are groovy if you actually think that "Socialist Realism" is the only "correct" movement in Art and Music. If so, then the Beatles are indeed Bourgeois, so was Pasternak and Matisse and Robert Crumb and 99.9% of the Artists and Writers and Musicians in the world. Hell, and so was Jesus Christ. All that Love nonsense. Very counter-revolutionary. Dangerous stuff, eh?

TO CONTINUE, THOUGH: The Beatles have brought out a new album, which in its own way is revolutionary. Culturally, at least. If they had produced a song called "Let's Do It In Road" three years ago, that might have been the end of the Beatles phenomenon. They would have been banned off radio forever. But they didn't. They just built up a catalogue of fantastically good music which impressed everyone. And now when they speak (musically) many people sit up and listen. Now that the Beatles are accepted, people are willing to go beneath the surface and dig what they are actually saying. Thus, their potential for blowing minds is increased immeasurably. The Fugs may have been singing "Let's Do It" for years, but the Beatles have gotten this message into millions of more livingrooms and bedrooms than Tuli Kupferberg ever could have. Thus, this album is quantitatively and potentially more effective in affecting people's minds and hearts (which is what the Beatles' "revolution" is all about) than ten SDS demonstrations.

So appreciate the fact that there is a love song to Russia ("Back in the U.S.S.R."), a narcotics song ("Happiness is a Warm Gun"), a social comment ("Piggies") and 27 other varied songs in this double album. The Beatles are out bringing Reality and Love into the ears of millions of unsuspecting people. Hahaha.

--Jay Kinney

The Roman Catholic Church is cleaning out its attic. During Vatican II the reverend gentlemen in conclave assembled solemnly "absolved" the Jews of any collective guilt in the execution of Jesus. By 1968, the housecleaning had come down to the 17th Century. Franz Cardinal König has suggested that the church should "rehabilitate" Galileo Galilei, the astronomer whose observations supported the Copernican theory and caused him to be condemned and placed under house arrest by Pope Urban VIII.

According to Cardinal König, Galileo's condemnation is still a major barrier between the church and the scientific community. However, he graciously says that "The Catholic Church is undoubtedly ready today to subject the judgment in the Galileo trial to a revision. Clarification of the questions which at Galileo's time were still clouded allow the church today to resume the case with full confidence in itself and without prejudice."

We may wonder what the Cardinal means by this. What "clarification" has taken place in the scientific facts? The moons of Jupiter, going around their primary like a miniature solar system, could be seen in 1610 as they are in 1968. Astronomers were as united in defending the heliocentric solar system in 1633 as they are in 1968. If any "clarification" of the questions under consideration in Galileo's trial has taken place since 1633, it has taken place in the minds of Pope Urban's successors, not Galileo's.

The Roman Catholic Church cannot "rehabilitate" Galileo; a revision of its verdict can only rehabilitate the church itself.

And while we're on the subject, Cardinal, how about Giordano Bruno? Galileo was condemned, imprisoned, forced to recant, and--according to some authorities--racked. In 1600, Bruno was burned at the stake for teaching the same doctrine.

And when we've taken care of the scientific questions, Cardinal, there are a few other matters to look into. You might be good enough to revoke the beatification of the assassin Balthazar Girard, whose head is still kept at Köln Cathedral as a holy relic. And then could come the admission that there was something wrong about the massacre of 30,000 French Protestants on August 24, 1572--when all the bells of Rome were ordered rung in triumph when news of this Catholic victory arrived.

-oOo-

If Portland Hoffa married Luis Aragon, she'd be Portland Aragon. If, on the other hand, she married Ho Chi Minh, she'd be Portland Minh. If Madame Nhu married Dick York, she'd be Madame Nhu York. If Phyllis Diller married Rep. J. J. Pickle (Dem., Tex.), she'd be Phyllis Diller Pickle. If Sen. Margaret Chase Smith married cartoonist Hank ("Dennis the Menace") Ketcham, she'd be Margaret Chase Smith Ketcham. If Barbara Felton married Gilbert Shelton, she'd be Barbara Felton Shelton. If she then divorced him and married James Melton, she'd be Barbara Felton Shelton Melton. If she then divorced him and married George Kistiakovsky, it would break a nice streak. If Leslie Uggams married Elvis Presley, she'd be Leslie Presley. (That isn't all she'd be--Presley cam-

paigned for George Wallace.) If Yoko Ono married Bob Hope, she'd be Yoko Ono Hope. If Christ Keeler married Gary Crosby, she'd be Chris Crosby. If Mandy Rice-Davies married stage magician James Randi, she'd be Mandy Randi. If almost anybody married "Whoopie John" Wilfahrt, it would be funny as hell. If Sherree North married Ringo Starr, she'd be Sherree North Starr. If Barbara Castle married Dagobert Runes, she'd be Barbara Castle Runes. If Madalyn Murray O'Hair married Fontaine Fox, she'd be Madalyn Murray O'Hair Fox. If she divorced him and married Congressman Lester Wolff (Dem., N.Y.), she'd be Madalyn Murray O'Hair Fox Wolff. If she then divorced him and married Leonard Lyons, she'd be Madalyn Murray O'Hair Fox Wolff Lyons. If afterwards she divorced him and married Max Baer, she'd be Madalyn Murray O'Hair Fox Wolff Lyons Baer. If then she divorced him and married General Odd Bull, she'd be Madalyn Murray O'Hair Fox Wolff Lyons Baer Bull.

-oOo-

Recently paperback bookshops in the Times Square area have been featuring a trilogy by one Richard Amory. The books deal with homosexuality, and to judge from sales are quite the most successful thing in that line for some time. They are entitled "Song of the Loon", "Song of Aaron" and "Listen, the Loon Sings", and apparently deal with a number of queer Canadians and Indians chasing each other through the north woods. The books have had so much success, presumably among readers sympathetic to the heroes' aberration, that other books of that genre are compared to them on the jacket advertising.

Another publisher in that same line has brought out a parody of the "Loon" series, allegedly written by "Ricardo Amery". It's called "Fruit of the Loon".

-oOo-

Many a leader, who relies on his own charisma and his own contacts, fails to train up potential successors in his nation, business or organization. Columbia University is still suffering from the failure of Nicholas Murray Butler to bring up anyone to succeed him as president, and the decline in the organizational structure of the Democratic Party can be traced to President Johnson's tendency to by-pass its processes in favor of direct phone calls from himself.

The same thing happens to lesser groups. George Lincoln Rockwell was a man of commanding personality within his little gang of bigots, and by the time he was killed all potential rivals or successors had been driven out. The American Nazi Party is now being run by a pudgy little homosexual named Matthias Koehl (or "Matthew Kale"), whose chief contributions to the Nazi cause are being made in bed with the businessman who is their major financial backer.

-oOo-

The conventional representations of the celestial constellations are extremely old. Capricornus is a goat with a fish's tail, as it has been for at least 3000 years. Hercules is represented as brandishing a club and trampling on Draco; the ram Aries looks over his right shoulder; Auriga carries a small she-goat on his shoulder.

Artists employed by the Hansen Planetarium in Salt Lake City have recently expanded on these themes in a series of picture postcards issued there: Half of the postcard is given to a star diagram of the constellation, giving color and brightness of each naked-eye star. The other half contains a representation of the mythological figure, done by Gail Hammond, Joel Izatt, Mary Jane Anderson or Hilka Itkonen. Some of

the representations are conventional, like the centaur Sagittarius or the crow and cup resting on Hydra. Others represent imaginative new designs, like a sinister Eisneyesque Cetus or a very sexy Andromeda.

These postcards come in four sets of a dozen each, one set for each season of the year. For example, the "Autumn" set shows the constellations which are prominent in the evening sky during autumn: Cassiopeia, Cephus, Andromeda, Perseus, Pegasus, Aquarius, Pisces, Aries, Cetus, Piscis Austrinus, Grus and Phoenix. A fifth set is culled from the first four, and contains the 12 zodiacal constellations.

These cards are \$1.00 per set from the Hansen Planetarium, 15 S. State St., Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111. They are also available at other planetaria around the country.

-oOo-

Wouldn't it be terrible if

- Lloyd Bridges got water on the knee.
- Hubert Humphrey got lockjaw.
- Twiggy got mastitis.
- George Wallace got a very dark suntan.
- Harry Golden got pork trichinosis.
- Richard Nixon got acne.
- Fidel Castro got lung cancer.
- Pope Paul got syphilis.
- Mao Tse-tung got yellow jaundice.
- Mel Blanc got tularemia.
- Charles de Gaulle got rosaceous acne.
- Colonel Sanders got chickenpox.
- George Murphy got St. Vitus' dance.
- Ted Kennedy went bald.
- Walt Kelly got swamp fever.

--John Boardman

JOTTINGS-----continued

in intruding into North Korean waters, while simultaneously repudiating every word of it. Some commentators have wondered why North Korea chose to accept the confession in exchange for the crew under such conditions. I find this not at all remarkable. If I had been Kim Il Sung, and were offered the opportunity to place the United States in the position of appearing both ridiculous and dishonest at the same time, I would have been willing to give up not only the crew, but also the ship, and throw in a lifetime subscription to the Pyongyang Times and a box of chocolate chip cookies to boot.

A Naval court of inquiry is looking into the circumstances surrounding the USS Pueblo's capture and the actions of the crew during their eleven-month imprisonment, but official statements in advance of the inquiry describing Commander Bucher and his men as heroes suggest that not much can be expected from that quarter. So it is left to us ignorant civilians to wonder if "heroes" is just exactly the right word to describe them. As every person who's ever been in the armed forces or even seen a war movie knows, captured military personnel of the United States are supposed to give their name, rank, serial number and nothing else to their captors. The Pueblo crewmen would appear to have given the North Koreans a good deal more; among other things, they wrote letters home containing confessions of their transgressions against the

CONCLUDED AFTER LETTERS

Dissenting Opinions

LETTERS OF COMMENT

ROY TACKETT :: 915 GREEN VALLEY RD., N.W. :: ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., 87107

It should be obvious to even the most politically near-sighted that the pre-election strength of the New Left was based on wishful thinking and not on actuality. The Radical Right, while showing far more strength than the Radical Left could muster, fell far short of what the political pundits predicted. If the election of 1968 proved anything, it is that the vast majority of the people of this country are pretty much satisfied with the way things are going and want no vast and radical changes. They are content to go right down the middle. Indeed, if any shift is indicated, it is a slight one toward the conservative. Not a lot, mind you, just enough to say "Slow down a bit but don't stop."

I am amused at John Boardman's assertion that the votes that went to the minor anti-war candidates or that didn't go to the polls at all defeated Hubert Humphrey. According to the last tabulation I saw, returns about 99% complete, all the minor candidates combined polled less than a hundred thousand votes. Gregory polled about 49,000, Cleaver about 12,500, and McCarthy slightly over 2,000. Other minor candidates, for whom protestors could have voted, received such a small vote that the press services didn't even bother to report it. Here in the Land of Enchantment, one Ventura Chavez, running for President as the candidate of the Peoples Constitutional Party, collected about 1300 votes.

As for those who stayed at home--not too many did. The total vote will run somewhere between 72 and 73 million, which is a good turn-out for the US of A. The total would indicate that very few more than the usual number of non-voters failed to go to the polls.

For all its boisterous behavior, it would seem that the New Left, for the time being at least, can be dismissed as a political force.

What cannot be dismissed, however, is the strength shown by the Radical Right. In the neighborhood of 9.8 million people voted for George Wallace and that is a neighborhood I don't care for at all. It will be interesting to see if AIP strength slips away during the coming months as the major parties reorganize and regroup. (I am not really impressed by Wallace's 9.8 million votes. In one lump like that, it's a lot of people, but outside of the square of states east of Texas and south of the Mason-Dixon Line--in the northern and western part of the country where the vast majority of Americans live--Wallace did very, very poorly. Considering everything.)

I've been glancing back over the letters from some of the more radical members of the New Left that have appeared in Kipple of late. It is remarkable how closely they resemble the public missives of the nuts of the Far Right. Change a few names and a few catch-phrases and they would be identical. I had occasion to write a letter to the local paper recently concerning a proposed county income tax. Among the responses I received was a five-page anonymous letter from some Far Right nut, which contained the usual racist garbage and tirades against the

federal government, the state government, the local government and anything else in sight. I rather regret the nut didn't sign his name. I'd have sent him a subscription to Ramparts.

Tsk, George Price. "The 'super-male' theory presents us with the possibility of dealing with men who are natural predators, like tigers or sharks." "Super-male" or no, man is a natural predator. I don't think any case can be made for the out of hand confining of XYs, any more than for out of hand confining of redheads.

Besides, things will be pretty damned dull if the meek inherit the earth.

RICK NORWOOD :: A&I BOX 651 :: 640 LINDEN :: RIVERSIDE, CALIF., 92507

Thanks for the couple of Kipples you sent. Kipple, by some miracle, keeps political controversy interesting.

It is depressing, however, to see the liberals, who are presumably motivated by a desire for the betterment of mankind, and the conservatives, who one hopes are motivated by a love of liberty and individual freedom, united in agreement that the majority of mankind is hopelessly incompetent to look after its own interests.

And then, too, everyone in Kipple seems to have a hard line, with no second thoughts, doubts or misgivings. I wish I were as sure what course our country should follow. I am sure that there is no point in worrying about what we should have done in the past. Recriminations are useless and reparations are impossible. I find it easy to agree that America should never have permitted slavery, should never have slaughtered the Amerinds, should never have gotten involved in Vietnam. While I'm at it, mankind should never have thrown Christians to lions, burned the Library at Alexandria, slaughtered the Ukrainian peasants. The problem is what can be done now to prevent future atrocities and, of possible courses, which is best.

Everyone seems agreed that the problem is moral. That is, I have not heard anyone say "We should stay in Vietnam because it stimulates the economy" or "We should get out of Vietnam because I am classified 1-A and am scared". This being the case, I would be interested in hearing what moral principles you are invoking. George W. Price has, at least, made his ethical system clear. It is not one I can sympathize with, but at least it is consistent, and seems to justify his conclusions.

I think I will make up a morality test, just for fun. The purpose of this test is not to determine how moral you are, but how you are moral. To which of the following moral principles do you subscribe?

(1) Thou shalt not kill. (2) Sex is bad. (3) Sex outside of marriage is bad. (4) Coercion of any volitional entity is wrong. (5) Revenge is just. (6) Revenge is never justified. (7) To hurt any human being is bad. (8) To fail to help someone in need is wrong. (9) One should guide others away from sin. (10) To permit another individual to sin when you can prevent it is evil. (11) Love thy neighbor as thyself. (12) Love thyself. (13) Masturbation is a sin. (14) Sexual deviation is a sin. (15) Contraception is a sin. (16) Abortion is a sin. (17) To take human life is a sin. (18) Capital punishment is bad. (19) Genocide is bad. (20) War is bad. (21) One should have reverence for all life. (22) To kill an animal is a sin. (23) Vegetarianism is good. (24) To destroy a species of animal is bad. (25) To disturb the ecology is bad. (26) Honor thy father and thy mother. (27) The Christian God is the only true God and to worship another is evil. (28) One should be a Christian. (29) One should be either a Christian or a Jew. (30) Atheism is bad. (31) Patriotism is a virtue, whatever your country. (32) Any American should be a patriot. (33) Freedom is good. (34) Censorship is evil. (35) Pornography is evil. (36) Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. (37) Thou

shoul't not covet. (38) To own property is bad. (39) To be rich is bad.
 (40) To be poor is a sin. (41) Work is a virtue. (42) To conform is bad.
 (43) To be a non-conformist is bad. (44) To wear unconventional clothing is bad. (45) Live life to the fullest. (46) Thou shalt not steal.
 (47) Thou shalt not commit adultery. (48) Thou shalt not swear falsely.
 (49) Lying is bad. (50) Cheating is bad. (51) To worship an idol is evil.
 (52) One should belong to the Catholic Church. (53) To marry outside your faith is a sin. (54) To marry outside your race is a sin. (55) One should obey the dictates of whatever religion he belongs to. (56) Avarice is a sin. (57) A lack of ambition is a sin. (58) Sloth is a sin.
 (59) Violence is bad. (60) Vanity is a sin. (61) Self-respect is good.
 (62) Gluttony is a sin. (63) Malice is a sin. (64) Envy is a sin. (65) Lust is a sin. (66) To suppress one's emotions is bad. (67) To act illogically is bad. (68) Breaking the law is bad. (69) Wanton vandalism is bad. (70) To destroy a work of art is bad. (71) Smoking is a sin. (72) Drinking is a sin. (73) Dancing is a sin. (74) Going to the movies or the theatre is a sin. (75) Reading fiction is a sin. (76) Belief in evolution is a sin. (77) Singing is sinful. (78) Desire is the cause of suffering and is bad. (79) Justice is good. (80) Mercy is good. (81) To respect one's elders is good. (82) To obey one's elders is good. (83) One should know one's place. (84) Hate is bad. (85) Waste is bad. (86) Taking drugs is a sin. (87) The use of stimulants is bad. (88) The use of tranquilizers is bad. (89) To remain ignorant is bad. (90) To overthrow a government is bad. (91) To fail to try to overthrow an unjust government is bad. (92) Communism is evil. (93) Capitalism is evil. (94) Socialism is evil. (95) Usury is a sin. (96) Respect for those in power is good. (97) Slavery is evil. (98) A person should always act as his self-interest dictates. (99) To desire to sin is the same as sinning. (100) To judge others is wrong.

It should be understood that the words "Good", "Bad", "Right", "Wrong", "Should" and "Sin" are used in their exclusively moral sense, not in either a practical or esthetic sense. A moral principle is absolute. To accept it only partially is not to accept it at all. Those moral principles that one accepts should not contradict one another, especially if one subscribes to principle #67. All of the moral principles above I have actually heard expressed, in all seriousness, by some individual. Those principles you subscribe to should give us some common ground on which to discuss particular cases. (I had intended to indicate my preference in each case until I got to this final paragraph and the stipulation that these tenets must be accepted--or rejected--as absolutes. I've always considered myself a moral relativist, but until now did not entirely realize how much of one. There's damned little that I can accept as absolute moral law. Of the 100 principles listed, I can subscribe unqualifiedly to only five: #19, #24, #70, #89 & #97. (I would also reject, unqualifiedly, fifteen or twenty others, mostly the patently silly ones like "Reading fiction is a sin".) The list includes a number of statements that I subscribe to generally but not absolutely. Thus, lying, stealing, cheating, violence and war are obviously bad, as a general rule, but there are circumstances in which each is necessary, right and therefore "good".)

JAY KINNEY :: B-W COLLEGE UNION BOX 1317 :: BEREA, OHIO, 44017

I got Kipple #155 today and find myself strangely compelled to react to a few things therein--especially Bill Kunkel's letter. Over the past ten or so issues, a few interesting individuals have seemed to surface in the letter column. Bill Kunkel is one, Ed Reed another, Frank Lunney the third, and, if pressed, I suppose I might have to include myself in the group. What distinguishes these people from the other Kipple regulars is their flagrant leftist leanings, their emotionalism,

their verbal writing style and a propensity for infighting. So we find Lunney and Kunkel setting off after Price and trying to demolish him, and then they set off after each other trying to demolish themselves in some vague form of mutual hari-kari. Meanwhile, Ed Reed and I sort of sit on the sidelines vaguely interested and throwing in a letter here and there.

Most Kipple readers must find this all highly amusing. And I do, too. Kunkel, to sift out the most obnoxious of the crew, reminds me of too too many SDS-New Leftists I have come across. They are excitedly caught up in their own emotionalism, calling policemen pigs, taking cute postures and howling when they are criticized. These are the people who rush around talking of Revolution when the actual fact of the matter is that it may well be fifty years before any Revolution can get underway in the US. They yell: "Free Huey, or the sky's the limit!" And it is all nonsense. Of course, what the Establishment dishes out is nonsense, too. But most of this New Left nonsense is no different from the Establishment nonsense, just a bit more obnoxious.

Many people are in science fiction fandom because of introversion, inferiority complexes or just mildly poor social adjustments. Fandom often enables them to work out these problems. I know it has for me. Two or three years ago I was extremely introverted. Through constant letter writing I was able to express myself pretty well and relate to other fans, and this expression and relation has carried over into life in general. It has been through fandom that I've been able to develop my art and get it out before people. Which is all very well and I am properly thankful. Well, it seems to me that about 90% of the people in the New Left are afflicted with the same hangups as fans. And the actions, movement and excitement of the New Left allow them to try to get outside of themselves and their hangups. The only problem with this is that the New Left goes beyond merely group therapy or even beyond constructive help to the arena of dogmatic cultism. The New Left crams itself down the throats of Society. In a generally unloving, unjoyful manner to boot. And that is the same game as the US (or USSR) government. Unlove. Unjoy. Force. Fighting. Intolerance.

Kunkel and Co. would do well to take a hard look at just what is coming off. They would do well to heed the words of the Beatles' song "Revolution". I'm going to try and free my mind before I go around telling society what to do. Can you dig it, Bill? (Granted, some of the New Leftists are a bit naive about this revolution business. On the other hand, it is no less naive to pursue the course of dropping out, conceiving oneself on a high spiritual plane somehow above all of this "unlove" and "unjoy", concentrating on "freeing my own mind" (or, as the beatniks of 1950's called it, "contemplating my own navel"), and imagining that some contribution is thereby being made to the improvement of society.)

FRANK LUNNEY :: 212 JUNIPER ST. :: QUAKERTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, 18951

(The following is a prime example of the "verbal writing style" referred to by Kinney, and the editor, having thrown up his hands in frustration at the prospect of trying to edit, has decided to print it without alteration.) The funny thing about Kunkel's preoccupation with shit is that he can't get along without it. Which is about precisely why I had the semi-preoccupation with the merde in my own letter... Like...making the editorial (editorials have to be written by someone with some degree of intelligence, right?...so, make that cries of rage at being caught with a handful, or something...) a rambling mess in which he calls everything shitty, or else it's as applicable as bullshit; or it carries the brand of the name of the column...Bullshit...I mean, Horseshit. I would suspect that he can tell the difference. It's

out of his own fanzine, Rats, right? A really clever title...bet he made it up right out of his own little head.

Kunkel thinks the publication of a fanzine is applicable in writing to an institution like Kipple (you get the junk mail, so you must be some kind of institution...or Kunkel should be committed to an etc., etc.), so I may as well drag in his own masterpieces. Masterpiece, actually, as I've never seen a Genook. Groan. He tries to hit you with his supposed witty travels through some Big City University, and His Adventures With The Draft Board, and he's a guy I wanna be like. Then he writes a journalistic-piece about The Village in Id, and he's a real marijuana jumper. Get some more stuff from him...like the time he organized the orgy involving 5,000 ants, 15 butterflies, and a neuter turkey. So some people send him contributions...I guess. What does he do...he reprints some stuff from The Realist. If anyone wanted to read it in the first place, they'd get The Realist...but he wants to let everyone know that he reads nasty stuff like that. And he likes bullshit.

Lessee...Beabohema junk makes a fool out of you. Right. That was just about the only purpose I had in saying some of that idiotic stuff...to get attention. Who's going to read the first issue of any fanzine unless you're Gertrude Higgins or somesuch BNF. No one...so everyone attacks Bab, and everyone looks to see what this Lunney guy's going to do for a second issue. What if it's bad...they still look. But...everyone knows how the first Genook was...pure in thought, word, and deed? Who knows...who cares?

He accuses me of coming on like Ted White...pshaw. He tries to come on like Paul Krassner...s mother. But, as I said...he has his horseshit...or is it bullshit?

And then...he hopes that I can read. Well, supposedly people in Quakertown are picketing "Rosemary's Baby", but what I said was "...a local society is trying to get it condemned, people are writing letters to the editors, talk shows complain about blasphemy." Who picketed? Kunkel's perverts in New York. If it was to be considered shocking, it would be because of the areligious undertones. But...as I said, Kunkel can go back to his movies and come down with another case of Prickly Heat.

Roy Tackett, I didn't say you had to go hunting grits and hawg-jowls...I said gumboes. Gumboes are everywhere. (Maybe so, but I wouldn't want my sister to marry one.) Grits are in the South and Southeast...I would guess. Just watered down rice, anyway. Hawg-jowls...well, they're anyplace you happen to have a hawg...right. I suppose Hell's Angels must have them every night...

GEORGE W. PRICE :: 1439 W. NORTH SHORE AVE. :: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 60626

Your little piece on "Crime, or Something, in the Street" tempts me to recount my only experience with crime in my neighborhood, about a year ago. I had just gone to bed, at about 1:00 AM, when I heard a man give a loud scream from the street (I live on the third floor). It sounded like terror, not anger. I jumped out of bed, ran to the phone in the kitchen, and called the police. Then I went to a window overlooking the street, and saw a man lying in the street with another man squatting beside him. The squatting man was not going through the other's pockets, so I assumed he was a passerby who had stopped to help an assault victim. By the time I got downstairs the police had arrived. I learned then how far I had misjudged the situation. What had happened was that a fellow was breaking into a parked car when the owner and some buddies caught him. The scream was the thief's when those guys jumped him. And it was the thief lying in the street, with the other man letting him know what would happen if he tried to get up before the cops came.

Your response to my essay on exploitation was about as expected. You translate my definitions of fair wages and prices as "the lowest wage the employer can offer and still get somebody to do the job", and "the highest (price) you can charge and still find somebody to buy, i. e., whatever the market will bear." Well, yes, that's exactly right, though your obvious implication is entirely wrong. I take it you think that in practice wages so reached would be very low indeed, and prices very high. In plain fact, as you can easily see by looking at the world around you, things rarely work that way, and they would work even less that way if we had a more nearly free market.

What you are obviously neglecting is the role of competition among employers for workers. If sales revenue in the steel industry, let us say, is such that Gigantic Steel Corp. could easily afford to pay \$3.00/hour for a certain class of job, but chooses just out of greed and stinginess to pay only \$1.00, what happens? It soon occurs to the manager of Backyard Steel Co., a tiny competitor of Gigantic, that if he pays \$2.00/hour, he will be able to hire away Gigantic's best men, thus improving his own efficiency, and still have enough profit margin left that he can undersell Gigantic. That is, by being less greedy than Gigantic, Backyard will increase its total profits by increasing sales, though at a reduced profit percentage. Of course when Gigantic finds out what's going on, it has to raise wages to get back those good workers, and then Backyard has to raise them again to keep the men, and so on it goes until wages in both firms have reached the level dictated by marginal productivity. In practice things do not work out quite so smoothly, mostly because conditions are constantly changing so that equilibrium can never be completely reached. But it comes pretty close.

The notion that, in the absence of unions or minimum wage laws, employers in a free market would pay starvation wages is just plain nonsense, for at least two reasons. First, it assumes that no employer would be intelligent enough to figure out that by paying better wages he could get his pick of the best workers. Second, in a free labor market there is automatically full employment, since the competition of the unemployed would hold wages down to where every employable man could get a job. This means that anyone starting a new business or expanding an old one can expand his labor force only by hiring men away from existing jobs--and to do that he must offer better wages, thus raising the general wage level. This process will continue until rising wages have narrowed profit margins so far that it is no longer worthwhile for new entrepreneurs to go into business. (We've been through this argument more than once, and I am constantly amazed that you are able to discuss "notions" about free market conditions as if they were hypothetical. But, George, we don't have to theorize; there was a time before unions, minimum wages and government regulation interfered with the free market; it's part of our history. Men did work long hours for bare subsistence wages; women did work 10- and 12-hour shifts in factories; children did work in mines. They did these things because the alternative was starvation. And because millions of people worked these killing hours, dressed in rags and, in some cases, lived in slums that make the average ghetto today look almost good by comparison, the owners amassed huge profits and grew wealthy. I didn't invent any of these things; they happened. Steinbeck didn't invent the conditions in "Grapes of Wrath", either; they existed, and to some extent still do.)

So it is perfectly true that prices and wages are pretty much set on the basis of "all the traffic will bear"; and where they are not, they should be. Fortunately for our wallets, there is only a relatively small difference between the highest wage that the employer can pay without going broke and the lowest he can pay without losing his workers, with marginal productivity determining the limit toward which com-

petition drives wages. The same, of course, applies to prices.

The story is told of how Henry Ford revolutionized industry by paying \$5.00 a day, at a time when that was an unheard-of high wage. This supposedly created prosperity by enabling the workers to "buy back their product". Thus purchasing power was extended to the masses and we entered the era of mass consumption. Right? Bullshit! Ford did not pay high wages just because he was kinder or smarter than other industrialists. What he did was invent a system of production (the assembly line) which made it possible for him to pay high wages, by vastly increasing productivity. Workers had always been able to buy back their product--but the product was small. Other industrialists had paid low wages, not out of cruelty, but because productivity was low. When Ford showed the way, they too adopted the new methods and paid higher wages--or went out of business when their workers were hired away by more productive industries. The extraordinary thing about Ford was that he took the lead in raising wages to match productivity, instead of hanging back until competition drove him to it.

Increased productivity stimulates wage raises not only for the worker whose productivity is increased, but for workers in general. That is, industries that cannot increase their productivity must nevertheless raise wages to compete with those that do. You might consider the so-called "servant problem". Servants were once quite common in middle-class homes, and are now almost impossible to find, and when found they demand--and get--wages far higher than they used to command. Now the productivity of an upstairs maid, even with modern appliances, is not much greater than fifty years ago. But what counts is not the productivity of the maid as a maid, but her possible productivity at other jobs open to her. If you want a maid, you must compete with factory jobs to get her services.

Now I would like to hear your definition of fair wages and prices. That is, I want to know what criteria you apply to determine whether a specific wage for a specific job is fair or not. (Well, I don't have any hard and fast criteria. I realize that weakens my argument, but it's unavoidable. I usually relate the fairness of a wage mainly to whether the employer can afford to pay more. I realize there are fields in which the productivity is so low that low wages are inevitable. The hired hand on a 100-acre Arkansas farm, for example, probably gets a wage that we should consider laughable. But chances are the farm family he works for doesn't live much better than he does, and that for me is the important factor. What aggravates my nerve ends is when the employer is getting rich paying low wages. Remember that TV commercial for California wine in which the winery owners rode up to their sprawling villa on thoroughbreds, handed the reins to a servant, and walked inside across oak floors to sip their wine from glass goblets on a silk tablecloth? I don't know if such a house really existed outside of TV-land, but I got mad every time I saw the commercial, because all I could think of was the shacks of the migrant workers. I know it's Striking Directly At The Heart Of Our Great Capitalist System, but I have a very primitive reaction to wealth acquired through business: whenever somebody makes a lot of money in business, I figure that, one way or another, directly or indirectly, it came out of my pocket, or yours, or his ("his" meaning anybody else out there in the audience). There's only a certain amount of wealth around, so when somebody starts out with little and ends up with a lot, somebody else (usually lots of people) must have been screwed in the process.)

When I said that in labor relations there should be no coercion by either party, you took this to "prohibit workers striking for a higher wage". This is a most odd reaction, considering that there wasn't a single thing in what I said to justify it. Unless, of course, you think

that strikes automatically and necessarily involve coercion? Naturally, I don't accept this.

Let me define the morally permissible limits of a strike. The workers are perfectly entitled to lay down their tools and walk out, saying to the boss, "We're leaving until you kick through with better wages. When you're ready to pay more, you know our phone numbers." The boss is then entitled to try to replace the strikers. If he can find enough qualified men who are willing to take the vacated jobs at the wage the strikers refused, he should do so. The very fact that he can do so is the proof that his wage offer is not too low. (I specifically exclude the temporary hiring of professional strikebreakers at a higher wage, which is quite rightly considered an unfair practice.) If he cannot find replacements, then he must either meet the strikers' terms or go out of business. The strikers are entitled to set up an informational picket line to let the world know there is a strike, in the hope that sympathy for them will cause prospective replacements to turn away and customers to refrain from buying. All this is permissible because it involves no coercion; every party makes his decision freely according to his own interests and sympathies. (And possibly the shriveling of his belly.) What is most definitely not permissible is for any party to use coercion. Specifically, the boss must not hire thugs to drive away the pickets or to intimidate the strikers into returning to work, and--more relevant to present conditions--the strikers must not sabotage the plant or use mass picketing or other intimidation to drive off customers or replacement workers. I hold that any attempt to forcibly prevent another person from taking the vacated job, at the wage refused by the striker, constitutes an admission that the strike is unjustified and that what the striker wants to do is push up his own wages by holding down other workers who are already making less than the striker. If coercion were forbidden in strikes (legally it is, of course, but the laws are not enforced), there would undoubtedly be fewer strikes. I leave it to you to decide how many fewer, according to your own judgment of what proportion of strikes could succeed without the threat of violence. (Even after all these years, I sometimes wonder if you're for real. Can you really assert, with a straight face, that "mass picketing" is unacceptably coercive while bringing in scabs to permanently take strikers' jobs--thereby, in some cases, bringing their families to starvation--is not? Incidentally, do you know offhand of any countries where your suggested "morally permissible limits of a strike" are followed?)

JOTTINGS

CONCLUDED

sovereignty of North Korea and participated in a number of propaganda films. They were reportedly beaten and terrorized into submission, but still--there were a good many American military prisoners in World War II who were tortured, and I mean really tortured, who did not consent to appear in Japanese propaganda films. By their own admission, no attempt was made to "brainwash" them. All things considered, I find it hard to understand how editorialists, especially conservative editorialists, can extoll their unparalleled heroism without wondering if they might not have resisted a bit more staunchly. In addition to that, Bucher and his men appear to have bungled the job of destroying documents and classified gadgets, though by their own account there was plenty of time between the first order to "Heave to!" and the actual boarding.

The most interesting question raised by the Pueblo affair, however, concerns the treatment of the men, about which there are confusing and contradictory indications. According to the Navy and Commander Bucher, they were brutally beaten and constantly tormented; the word

"malnutrition" cropped up in reports of the first medical examinations. However, to anyone who saw the men in the films of their arrival at various US bases during the first 48 hours after their release they appeared to be in pretty good shape. One man was limping noticeably, but other than that there didn't seem to be any problem. We are all familiar, thanks to the troubled times in which we live, with the hollow-eyed, shuffling appearance of prisoners who have been mistreated. These men didn't have it. Moreover, their accounts of their treatment contain major discrepancies. Commander Lloyd Bucher, for instance, claimed in his initial news conference that the officers were kept in solitary confinement for the entirety of their imprisonment. But his executive officer said that the officers were confined to their (individual) rooms except during morning recreation periods, at meal time, during afternoon "sports periods", and during two-hour card sessions in the evening, which doesn't sound like "solitary confinement" to me. Also, the sports periods and card parties were a part of the mistreatment which Bucher forgot to mention altogether in his account.

Perhaps I'm simply overly skeptical and picking nits, but I remember the Gulf of Tonkin gaff and other examples of our beloved government being slightly less than wholly candid with us, so I can't help but wonder if after all the recent official statements we don't know less about the Pueblo incident now than we did a month ago.

SHORT NOTES ON LONG SUBJECTS: I recently went through my mailing lists with a rusty machete, so if you didn't get this issue you know why. Kipple has been picking up a lot of new readers lately, and the only way to prevent the mailing list from growing unwieldy is to tighten up on what many of you can testify has been an extremely liberal policy of keeping long-time readers on the list through thick and thin. I found names of people who may conceivably have been dead since 1967 but who have been receiving every issue through simple force of habit. I am now breaking the habit. If you, dear friend, are an "old-timer" who hasn't written or something lately, don't feel smug just because you received this issue. If I keep getting new readers at the present rate, I'll be culling again--even more ruthlessly--in a couple of issues. Beware! +++ If Theodora van Runkel married Bill Kunkel, she'd be Theodora van Runkel Kunkel. +++ The New York Jets recently battled the Oakland Raiders for the privilege of playing the Baltimore Colts in the pro football championship game. This is like John Boardman and I fighting for the right to go 10 rounds against Muhammed Ali. +++ Even before the new Administration takes office, a member of the cabinet (designate) caused its first, small "credibility flap". In his first news conference as Secretary of the Treasury-designate, David Kennedy evaded a question about the price of gold because he didn't want to provoke a crisis and ended up provoking a minor one with the evasion. His implication that the Nixon Administration might not maintain the price of gold at \$35 per ounce sent a tremor through the very shaky Western financial structure. Mr. Kennedy thus becomes the first cabinet member eligible to receive the Spiro T. Agnew Foot in Mouth Citation. +++ Late last year, the North Koreans sent about 100 commandos ashore on the rugged east coast of South Korea. All were killed or captured, but it took two full ROK divisions, plus countless police and militia units, about a month to accomplish it. So far, the North Koreans don't seem to be very effective as guerillas (they're good, well-trained commandos, but that's not the same thing). However, the trouble caused by this handful of infiltrators is a hint of how the shit will hit the fan when they learn. +++ In answer to several queries, yes, I have tape-corresponding facilities (well, to be more accurate, I have a cartridge recorder--Magnavox, two-track cassettes), though I'm not much of a tape

correspondent. It sometimes takes me three months to work up the steam to tape 60 minutes worth of my inimitable prose. (I speak just about the way I write--pedantic, plodding, occasionally sardonic; a slightly smaller vocabulary, though not much. And my voice, on tape, for some reason sounds extremely tired, which doesn't exactly liven up the prose, either.) In any case, obscene cassettes are joyfully received, and may eventually be answered. +++ The Israeli commando raid on the Beirut airport was Israel's Gulf of Tonkin raid. +++ Jay Kinney's music column will appear, hopefully, every couple or three issues. I'd like to see it every issue, but of course a mere human being like Jay can't hope to maintain the kind of schedule that Dr. Boardman and I do. +++ If Mae West married baseball player Dave May, then divorced him and married Gen. Curtis LeMay, she'd be Mae May LeMay. +++ Most of the front-page news out of Thailand these days deals with that country's fuel-stealing industry (not a typo, Bill Kunkel; stealing US oil and gasoline is a major industry in Thailand), but buried down in a recent UPI dispatch is the latest estimate of the numerical strength of the Thai insurgents: 5000 armed guerillas, a substantial rise over the last reported estimate. +++ Incidentally, in "The Nixon Administration", when I said that there don't seem to be any Hawks anymore, I was of course referring to reasonable, rational people whose attitudes and opinions fall within the limits of what is sometimes called "the American consensus". Cryptofascists like William F. Buckley, naturally, are excluded. +++ If Fidel Castro were to keep all the planes that are hijacked to Cuba, he would have the makings of a pretty good, albeit heterogeneous, fleet of civilian carriers.

--Ted Pauls

"Trevor Anderson is alive and well in Peggy Swenson." --John Boardman

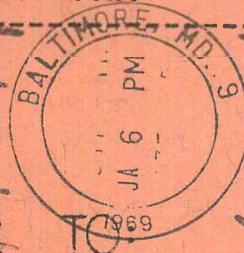
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