

MULLF 39

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED TO ME ON THE WAY TO THE POLL, Dept.: A funny thing really did happen. I cast my vote for a blackball this year. I don't do that too awfully often; the last time was against a simese twin named Lance and Wetzel. But our last president pointed out that we really needn't justify our blackballs with reasons -- let alone good ones, and this sort of tickled my fancy. So when somebody suggested that we all blackball the whole FAPA waiting list, I didn't bother to ask them why. I mean, why have a reason?

Well, something over ten of us voted against the whole waiting-list this year, just as proper as you please. And we did it by name, too; not just the easy way, with "the whole damned list" or anything like that. No, it was hard work copying out all those names from the November FA. We sweated, we did.

And now an official of the group, whose duties include the honoring and obeying of the constitution, last I heard, decided that for no reason at all he might's well ignore our ten votes. I don't mind saying that after going to all that work for no good reason of my own, I was pretty burned.

Of course, that officer had precedent. Hell yes. The last several administrations have been playing fast and loose with the ol' constitution; they've refined it to a neat shell game: try to pin anything like responsibility on any one officer and he prints to someone else.

But this is ridiculous. I mean, really. Is the blackball a legal part of the constitution, or is it not? If our sec-treas can disallow a blackball when he feels like it, what's to stop him from the reverse? What the hell's all that verbage in our ghoddamned constitution for, ferghodsakes?

Well, sobeit. Another ratfink administration in the Grand Old Tradition of Ratfink Administrations shouldn't make that much difference to FAPA. You've all voted the same rascals in, year after year, for the last ten years anyway. You know what to expect by now.

Well, let's skip all that. The real purpose of my sheet is to urge you not to vote for the waiting-list reinstatement petition, even if it becomes necessary. You see, I finally found a real reason for blacklisting the waiting list!

Basically, it's this: for the past seven or more years, membership has had little turnover, and new members have had at least a five-year wait on the w-l. This leaves them something less than bright-eyed, bushytailed and enthusiastic once they join us. The list has been a "problem" for years. Why not blackball it, then, and blackball it next year, as well? And the year after that? This would have two results: new members would be recent applicants, the first year, and

older re-applicants the second and following alternating years. It would give a fresh shakeup to the waiting list each year.

Second, it would certainly discourage a long waiting-list, since only the top six or eight of any given year would get in. Soon, we'd be back down to an annual waiting list of twenty or less, and FAPA's prestige as a group to join would be dimmed sufficiently to keep the neos from choking up the waiting list.

I don't know about you, but this rather hair-brained idea sounds to me like it might actually work. And, considering that fact, I'm even more annoyed that an officious official decided to ignore the -- ahem -- mandate of the voters.

Well, that's about all I have to say on the subject.

-- Ted White