

## CONSTITUTIONAL COMMENTS

Opinions I've been able to extract from fans on my proposed revised constitution for the FAPA have been generally favorable, but not very definite. Among the more definite things is criticism of the omission of any qualifications for active membership.

I omitted this because I couldn't see how we could keep a person from immediately re-joining after his renewal was refused due to inactivity in the FAPA. The answer was absurdly simple, as Doc Swisher pointed out: Send all such persons to the foot of the waiting list if they want to get back in; then if there are any new members waiting for a place, the dead wood won't keep them out, but we'll always have pretty good assurance of a full membership list, and a basic income of \$25 per year. Of course, if the aforementioned dead wood has also been inactive in the subscription fan magazine field, he could not rejoin in any case.

So I think I would like to strike the words "and renewal of membership" from Article 3 of my draft (concerning qualifications for entering), and substitute the words "active members" for "Members" at the beginning of Article 5 (concerning privileges), and add the following: "Members who have not had the equivalent of a credential published thru the FAPA during the preceding twelve months shall have the foregoing privileges with the exceptions that they shall not vote or receive office, nor re-join upon expiration of dues until any previous applications for membership shall have been disposed of."

In this connection, Doc Lowndes has stated that he now opposes taking the vote from inactive members since, instead of spurring them to become active, it has merely resulted in denying the franchise to a large portion of the FAPA. He suggests alternatively that active members be given two votes to one for an inactive. The primary question here involved seems to be whether the increased complication of the election system will not outweigh the advantage of the proposed change.

Swisher has further suggested that it is wrong to penalize the active publishers by inserting the provision giving power to demand 10¢ or 20¢ from each publisher when the treasury will not bear mailing expenses. He suggests that any annual deficit be divided by 50 and added to members' dues. One thing I might point out on this is that it contemplates one of the officers' paying the deficit from personal funds, to be refunded at some later date.

Harry Warner wants a provision for censoring the mailings. He further thinks that no written law will be effective, but thinks the power should be discretionary with the Official Editor; and if you think the OE is misusing his power, why, throw him out and get another. If the FAPA continues as slow-moving as in the past, I'm afraid you'd have little luck recalling an officer very long before his term has expired. Also, how would you know what was kept out of the Mailing? We would not be altogether averse, however, to a provision that each item in the Mailing must to some reasonable extent represent the work of an FAPA member.



## NOW, ABOUT THESE LAUREATES

I think the laureate system needs an overhauling (Comes the Revolution!). It isn't described in detail in the Constitution, so is largely at the discretion of the Vice-President and tradition. In the past we have awarded publishing laureate, editing laureate, poetry laureate, literary laureate, and artist laureate.

As mentioned in Sustaining Program, however, the poetry laureate has not been a scene of much competition. The literary laureate, on the other hand, has been all competition. And it seems to me that the name, "literary laureate", unjustly influences the laureate committee to choose fiction rather than articles, departments, etc. I may be wrong, but anyway, it seems that in such a huge field as prose writings, there might be a laureate for non-fiction and one for fiction.

The art laureate is all right, and so are publishing and editing laureate, the former for mechanical excellence and the latter for choice of material; altho in some cases, as the SFDebater, editing and writing are almost the same thing.

But there's another type of laureate I want to suggest: Photography Laureate. Don't think of that photo in Sustaining Program--I thought of this poetry laureate later than and entirely independently of it. But consider the possibilities: such pictures as a photograph taken at a PSTS meeting, a straight-off-the-screen snapshot from "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", or a bit of table-topper in which a huge monster stalks across a pile of science-fiction magazines. These represent only three of the many types of photos of scientific interest that might be made, each type limitless in its possibilities. Pictures could be pasted in your regular pub, or sent loose with identification hektored on the back. It wouldn't be terribly expensive: You can get 50 contact prints (enough to cover the entire membership) of 35 mm pix for a dollar, and <sup>for</sup> those who have cameras taking larger film, which would not require such fine detail, the prints they can make themselves would be quite satisfactory and inexpensive.

Harry Warner has remarked on the fact that so many fans seem to have good cameras and know how to use them. If we could get a half-dozen or a dozen FAPA members contributing two or three or more fotos a year to the mailings, we'd have something that other amateur press associations can't boast of (except for a few half-tone fotos in NAPA printed journals, maybe). Rothman has agreed to do his part. DuQuesne and I will be in there trying (DuQuesne is my Argus--you know, like you name a car Hannibal or a typewriter Oscar). I know I can depend on Don McPhail, who's an old photographer and amateur photo-printer from away back. You others, too. How about it, guys? We'll have a photography laureate if we can get some good competition in the field. It's up to you.

ITEMS ABT THE CURRENT EUROPEAN CIVIL WAR THAT CAN'T WAIT FOR THE VAGUE-DISTANT DAY WHEN THE ANTI-MICHELIST OMNIBUS APPEARS

Ego Clarke, who's supposed to be probably in the army by now, informs that only mail going out of Britain is censored. Which makes us feel very bad, on account of we've been sprinkling our missives to Perfidious Albion's shores with nice cracks at the censors we thought would be reading them, or maybe jail the addressee on suspicion of being a



spy.

DAW recently enclosed with a copy of *Escape* a page from some half-sized mimeoed publication, which I guess is the mysterious Science Fiction Progress that one hears about but never knows where to get or for how much, concerning my "After 1939--What?" recommendation that fandom go into suspended animation should this country go to war. I assume that it was written later than the rather mistaken article in *Fantascience Digest* (which I can forgive, because it was written before we knew even that England would go to war), and I wonder why Don has not checked the ideas expressed in the first-mentioned article, the page from SFP, against the actual situation in Great Britain to see whether it stands or not. I am thinking particularly of his careless statement that at the outbreak of war a strict censorship would be clamped down on all mail, both domestic and foreign --would, or could. During the First World War we had only a nominal, percentage censorship; but more important, in the present war the British fanmags, including pacifist *Youd's Warbul* and *Fay*, have not been suppressed. If it can't be done in the tight little isle, does Mr. Wollheim think it can be done here?

We agree, however, with Mr. Wollheim's desire that we stay out of the war, and incidentally think that the Communists could best advance that cause by shouting at the top of their silly voices, "We want war!" You know, it is distinctly uncomfortable to think about Britain and France at war with Germany; I can't help wondering if one of the poilus shoving the shell into that gun may not be Georges Gallet, and one of the detachment of German soldiers it wipes out, Herbert Haüssler. Not that I know much about H. üssler, but I am under the impression that he is one of those rare creatures, a stiffist on the European continent.

I haven't yet heard what the head Michelists' reaction to the Finnish invasion of the Soviet Union is, except that Pohl referred Milt to the *Daily Worker*, from which I deduce that he is going to continue supporting the Third International. I should not be at all surprised, however, to see Doc Lowndes quit.

The last word on the Communist line in fandom was that they would concede sincerity to those who granted that the Communists were sincere. This was based on the assumption that the Communists were sincere, which I do not doubt--in the past tense. I am still inclined to grant them that, even if they slavishly follow where Russia tells them to go, but a little doubt is gnawing at that. Suppose a person were a Communist who believed in the spread of Communism as rapidly as possible, by fair means or otherwise--what would he do now? Realizing that this idea, while quite acceptable to him, would not be liked at all by other people, including other Leftists, might he not pretend to accept Russia's explanations of its actions, and swear up and down that he believed them, while actually he recognizes them for what they are?

Anyway, Jack Miske says if the Reds accept this latest delicacy, he's thru with them, and I think he's entirely sincere, and that the Michelists would do wrong to hold that he is not. As a matter of fact, Miske stated elsewhere in his letter that he believed the Communists were sincere, but didn't see how they could be so incredibly stupid. This war concerning economic rather than diplomatic matters.

"From 1940 to 1982 was an era of peace and prosperity." --Brick Bradford, 1/29/F38. Mussolini's going to have to get busy in a hurry, then, if he doesn't want William Ritt to be



ler" on the preceding page.

Häussler  
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In our opinion, the Fantasy-News write-up of the Philly Conference is fit to stand beside the WSEC "Warning!" in any anthology of fan prose.

Rothman in the De-

[illegible]

statement. " $\frac{1}{2}$ T": Half-Truth.

We will run thru these in chronological

1. "Nothing can be done un-

2. "SFL headquarters have shown...that they

3. "With

(To be continued, we fear

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York  
Speed  
1912