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NOTES

By Jeffery Sack

This is my concern, ed. by Foster Meharry Russell (Northumberland, Coburg, 1962.

A book like this does not deserve a review. It is too bad. But the publisher has asked us for two copies of a criticism, and, hey-ho!, we are not unwilling to communicate to him our utter absence of enthusiasm. What Mr. Russell does with the review is His Concern.

It seems that Mr. Russell, publisher of the Coburg Sentinel-Star had a brain-wave. Wouldn't it be fun to collect the opinions of diverse Canadians on their major concerns? It might, Meharry, it might. But it depends a great deal on the Canadians selected. What you have concocted is merely a witches' brew of housewives' pet peeves sweetened with Bruce Hutchisonian syrup and larded with potfuls of platitudes.

Take Mr. R. A. Giles, for example, who happens to be the publisher of the world-famed Lachute Watchman, Lachute, Que. What's on YOUR mind, Mr. Giles. Unions, that's what. And how they have reached "the stage where they can dictate and take command of our industry." Don't you see it all around you? Mr. Giles does. And, what is more, as the author so deftly, and so admiringly, points out, in Russia there are no strikes! Which only goes to show . . . what, Mr. Giles?

Still, the contents of the contributions is easier to stomach than the style of the contributors. It is evident that the art of writing has been no one's concern. And, as might have been expected, Mr. Russell himself is the worst offender. A few lines from his hortatory poetic epilogue, entitled Lord, Give Us Men!

You, brave people,/are bound for stratosphere/higher than yourself/beyond your reach/but you go on/striving for/the unattainable/just a modicum/out of grasp/always.

Ugh! It may well be Mr. Foster Meharry Russell's concern "that Canadians do not write as much as they speak." But it's his readers misfortune that Mr. Russell does not think as much as he writes.

The editor tells us in an incoherent preface that he mailed almost four hundred to prospective contributors — and it is certain that he bothered a great many people. Indeed, by dint of extraordinary flatfootedness, Mr. Russell has included in his ill-executed book the replies of those who managed to extricate themselves from his repeated solicitations. If Mr. Russell intended to expose these prudent few as Unconcerned Canadians, he has failed miserably. Here is one reply I like especially.

From Jacques Lamarche, Secretary to His Eminence Cardinal Leger, Montreal — I regret to advise you that it will be impossible for His Eminence to contribute an article on the subject This Is My Concern, since he will be following the exercises of a spiritual retreat.

Well, perhaps I am being a little unfair to Mr. Russell. There are a number of people to whom this book would appeal. But then, they cannot read.

AMERICA

(Editors Note: the following is an editorial that appeared in the Daily Tar Heel, the college newspaper of the University of North Carolina.)

OXFORD, Miss. — In the eyes of the world Mississippi is America. The Mississippi of General Walker, of Ross Barnett, and of confederate flags which fly everywhere in this little town, is what America means . . . because a great nation cannot be allowed to lapse into cruelty and violence, even within the smallest part of one of its smallest states.

At this moment America is the Army general who led a mob of teenagers, armed with rifles and rocks, against United States Marshalls.

America is the Mississippi state trooper who urged a group of students to "go get Meredith."

America is the "Ole Miss" student who crushed to pieces a newsman's camera and was cheered by his fellow students.

America is a sate who screamed at reporters for not showing "proper Southern courtesy" to a woman — and then stood idly by while a reporter was beaten by five students.

America is the unbelievably vile names students called the Federal Marshalls.

America is the person who shot and killed the French reporter and Oxford man.

Perhaps the saddest of all of what America is today is the university administrator who used a loudspeaker to urge students to return to their dorms after the riot Sunday saying: "You have done nothing to be ashamed of . . . return to your dorms . . . you have done nothing to be ashamed of."

Look closely at this . . . look closely and see what your America has become.

LETTERS

Sir: Your coverage of Medical Faculty matters in the Gazette of October 3rd. was very well done and much appreciated. However, the sentence, "Only four women students were admitted." might lead some to believe that others were denied admission because they were women. Six other women, residents of the Atlantic Provinces, did apply for admission; two of these were accepted but later withdrew their applications in favor of other careers and four did not qualify academically (ie. they failed required pre-medical classes.)

In summary, all of the academically qualified women applicants, residents of the Atlantic Provinces, who wished to begin the study here are doing so. This has been the situation for many years, as far as I am aware.

Sincerely, L. B. Macpherson, Assistant Dean, Faculty of Medicine.

A LESSON IN GEOGRAPHY

Sir: I like your last issue of The Gazette quite a lot. Only one thing puzzles me: in the information on page 2, you describe Canada off the coast of Newfoundland. At high school, I learned that Canada is composed by islands and a mainland which is a part of a big island, America. Who should I believe: you or my teachers?

Sincerely, A Confused Student (Editor's Note: If the grammar in this letter is symptomatic of what is taught in high school, you would probably be safer believing us.)

DISCRIMINATION BY HALIFAX LANDLORDS

The problem of colored students facing discrimination while looking for accommodation in Halifax is an old one, but no less serious for all that. The recent events at the University of Mississippi have tended to make Canadians sit back with smug disapproval, often saying such a thing could never happen here.

It can and does in a much more insidious manner.

In a survey carried out over the past couple of weeks by The Gazette to determine how much discrimination there is against colored students by landlords, two reporters — one an African negro, the other a white Canadian — found that out of 12 houses with rooms available, the negro student was refused accommodation in four of them — or one third of the number.

The figure four out of 12 might appear negligible at first sight. However, the houses visited were all on the list available at the Dalhousie Business Office, and there is every reason to believe that the ratio would not be changed if the sample had been much larger.

The two reporters had a late start when it comes to finding accommodation in this city, but in talking to colored students at Dalhousie we have heard of numerous other cases of discrimination.

What can be done about it? This is a hard question to answer. But if the matter is brought out into the open and recognized as an evil some good might result. The trouble is that many Haligonians do not appear to want to have the topic of discrimination discussed. The CBC Television programme "Close Up" featured the problem of the Africville residents not long ago, and a recent issue of McLean's Magazine has done the same thing. However we have heard citizens of Halifax express shock at the programme — not at the content, mind you, but at the nerve of the CBC in exposing such a distasteful sight.

6 The University student is in the unfortunate position of finding himself in a seller's market when it comes to finding lodgings in Halifax. The number of students outnumber the number of decent living quarters available. This has resulted not only in landlords practicing discrimination getting away with it, but in a tendency among the good citizens to rent out rooms at astronomical rates hardly fit for a dog to sleep in.

We suggest that the University Administration cross off from their list all landlords who practice discrimination against students on racial grounds, and also set up — perhaps in co-operation with the Students' Council — a committee which will be responsible for inspecting houses offering accommodation to students. We also suggest that the City of Halifax take cognizance of the situation and act accordingly.

Discrimination and poor student housing has been uncovered in Toronto and Vancouver by student surveys this year. Perhaps this survey and others we intend to carry out in the near future — landlords beware — will have the proper effect.

CHAPERONES

An item of side business during the budget meeting of the Students' Council concerned chaperones at student dances. A motion was passed by Council to the effect that all societies holding dances had to have chaperones in attendance, that the names of the chaperones should be submitted to the Council at least a week in advance and that suitable seating and refreshments be provided for them.

However, one point that cannot be legislated is the attitude of the student attending the dances to the chaperones. It is not uncommon to see a couple who have given up their evening to help a student society sitting in splendid isolation while students carefully

CUBA: WHAT NEXT?

(From The McGill Daily)

The American general elections take place less than a month from now. Gradually the Republicans have seized upon an issue with which to fight the Kennedy administration. That issue is Cuba.

Not since the McCarthy era has any one issue so inflamed the passions of the electorate. There are constant demands that the government "do" something about Cuba. The Republicans have been blasting the Administration for that old but still politically-potent charge of "being soft on Communism."

It goes without saying that the encouragement of such passions by certain American politicians can only be described as irresponsible. In fact, these passions have been fanned to such an extent that it can only be described as mass hysteria.

The foundation of the demands that something be "done" about Cuba is the Monroe Doctrine. This venerable anachronism, drafted in 1823, stated that the United States had no intention of interfering in European affairs, but expected the European powers to refrain from Western Hemisphere affairs.

It is obvious from this description that the Monroe Doctrine no longer has any validity. If indeed it ever had any in the first place. The United States is deeply committed to European affairs, and so cannot expect its opponents to refrain from concerning itself with Latin America when it is surrounded with American bases in Turkey, Japan, etc.

However, the hysteria still persists; this element of the Monroe Doctrine is calmly ignored. Last month the influential Luce publications declared war on Cuba, when Time Magazine called for a "direct U.S. invasion of Cuba, carried out with sufficient force to get the job done with surgical speed and efficiency." An even more virulent attack was made in a corresponding Life editorial, which expected us to believe that tiny Cuba "constitutes a threat to the security of the U.S."

Under these conditions it is no wonder that the American public is gripped with hysteria. It is all the more reasonable when we hear irresponsible politicians, Republicans and Democrats alike, call for a naval blockade of Cuba, something which would get the U.S. Navy directly involved in a clash with Soviet armed forces. It goes without saying such a clash could only lead to war.

The immediate stimulus of the anti-Cuban hysteria has been the increase in the level of Soviet arms shipments to Cuba. This has been interpreted even by liberals as a provocative act on the part of Mr. Khrushchev. But it must be seen in the context of U.S. press, public and political opinion. The Cuban Government has been attacked once by the U.S. and it knows that it can be attacked again. We can certainly understand the Cuban Government's intention of making such an invasion as difficult as possible. The arms shipments are no more provocative than the maintenance of the the Western garrison in Berlin.

There are some sections of discontent with the Castro regime in Cuba. However, even the anti-Castro rebels admit that Castro is supported by the vast majority of the Cuban people. To successfully invade Cuba would require the full might of U.S. armed power. This would have to be followed up by a long occupation and a bitter guerilla war. No one wishes the United States to take upon itself the ugly stigma of Hungary.

avoid speaking to them or even looking to see who they are.

We would urge students attending dances in future to take the trouble — it is rarely, in fact, an onerous task — to go over to the shaperones of the night and at least greet them even if you find yourself incapable of carrying on a coherent conversation.