

A MONTHLY REPORT OF THE EXTREMIST ASSAULT ON THE DEMOCRATIC MIDDLE

VOLUME I. NO. 1

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



JANUARY, 1968

A POLICY STATEMENT AND A FEW DEFINITIONS CONCERNING THE VOCABULARY OF LEFT AND RIGHT

We begin this publishing venture by admitting to bias. We prefer the broad, flexible, democratic and moderate middle to the harsh exigencies of the Marxist Left (new or old) and the authoritarian Right. The parliamentary democratic middle is, as Winston Churchill advised, neither perfect nor all-wise, perhaps ". . . the worst form of government, except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time."

When we speak of the "mainstream middle" we will be speaking of those with continuing faith in constituted authority, willing to abide by established rules of the game. Those on the extremes of the far Left and Right have lost faith in America.

In the middle change is accepted, impatiently by some, reluctantly by others. The change sought on the far Left is revolutionary and total, a substitution of "scientific Marxism" for America's mixed package of free enterprise and governmental regulation. The far Right's militant resistance to change is usually accompanied by

shrill cries of "subversion" directed against those with a differing viewpoint.

The middle employs name-calling and character assassination at times, but to the propagandists of Left and Right, name-calling and character assassination are a way of life, what academia calls "a constant of agitation".

(continued on page 2)

RADICAL LEFT

Loss of faith in America
Seeks total, disruptive,
revolutionary change
Substitution of Marxism
for American system
Engages in name-calling
& character assassination
Promotes the class struggle,
pits class against class

MAINSTREAM CENTER

Faith in the American system
Acceptance of gradual
change

Works to bridge gap between the rich and the poor Seeks unity of all Americans, and first-class citizenship without regard to race, color, creed or national origin

RADICAL RIGHT

Loss of faith in America
Blind resistance to change
Impugns loyalty of those
with differing viewpoints
Engages in name-calling
& character assassination
Promotes racial, religious,
and ethnic bigotry



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POLICY STATEMENT (continued from page 1)

The middle's quest, however groping, for the unity of all Americans, and the swelling tide of American history in the direction of first class citizenship for all citizens, fills us with a feeling of pride. We not only reject the Left's attempt to pit class against class and the Right's attempt to promote racial, religious, and ethnic bigotry, we avow to expose both.

The middle's acceptance of complexity and ambiguity wins our hearty approval. The Left and Right's "conspiracy view of history" brings to mind our participation in two weekend debates in Philadelphia a few years ago, the first with a revolutionary Communist, the second with an apologist for The John Birch Society. Their arguments were strikingly similar, their view of America strangely identical. Only the alleged architects of the "conspiracy" differed. The former found "conspirators" in "Wall Street", the "evil establishment", in "monopolies" and "big business" working in the interests of "aggressive American imperialism". The spokesman for The John Birch Society traced all of our ills to the "Communist conspiracy".

Finally, we will continue to spurn the offers of "help" from highly emotional, but otherwise well-intentioned individuals who claim a kind of identity with us. Our mailbag and telephone lines are often cluttered with lengthy advice from such "principled" individuals. We speak here of parties who see nothing wrong with the separatist doctrines of the Black Muslims while simultaneously applauding our efforts at exposure of the white supremacist, separatist doctrines of the United Klans of America, Inc. And of those who insist that since Communist totalitarianism is an evil, anyone opposing it is automatically on the side of the angels.

We see the strengthening and extending of political democracy as the continuing challenge, preferring the advice offered seventy-one years ago by William James:

Democracy is still upon its trial. The civic genius of our people is its only bulwark, and neither laws nor monuments, neither battleships nor public libraries, nor great newspapers, nor booming stocks; neither mechanical invention nor political adroitness, nor churches nor universities nor civil service examinations can save us from degeneration if the inner mystery be lost. That mystery consists in nothing but two common habits. One of them is the habit of trained and disciplined good temper toward the opposite party when it fairly wins its innings. The other is that of fierce and merciless resentment toward every man or set of men who break the public peace.

... AND A FEW DEFINITIONS

Historian Clinton Rossiter believes that terms like Left and Right, liberal and conservative, "are not easily scrapped," and that despite the "abuse that has been heaped upon them," remain useful tools of political analysis and discussion "when properly handled". 1 We agree, and trust that our understanding of these terms would meet with Rossiter's approval.

When we speak of the American liberal we speak of one whose major emphasis is peaceful reform and orderly change within the framework of the Constitution. This emphasis is rooted in the liberal's deeply held belief in the essential goodness of man.

The radical Left in the United States views reform as a vehicle for perpetuating a despised system. In vivid contrast to the liberal emphasis on peaceful reform and orderly change, the radical Left seeks total change — disruptive, disorderly, and revolutionary.

In general, the American conservative rejects the liberal's belief in the goodness of man. This is not to say that one believes in man while the other does not. The conservative is as ready as the liberal to acknowledge man's capacity for goodness, but insists that man's basic nature is contradictory. Evil, the conservative argues, is also a thrust of man, and therein lies the explanation of why the conservative puts as the first order of business, the limiting of the powers of state and federal government. Keep man from acquiring too much political power over the lives of other men, argues the American conservative, and our society will remain truly democratic and free.

The radical Right has scrapped parliamentary procedures and democratic processes without which any organization departs the conservative (or liberal for that matter) tradition in favor of authoritarianism, totalitarianism, and dictatorship. The organizations on the Radical Right are led almost without exception by a lone individual, and there is no machinery for change or the registering of disapproval.

When the American people grasp these basic distinctions, the fringe groups now flexing their muscles and making noise all out of proportion to their numbers will be seen in true perspective.

1 Conservatism in America, by Clinton Rossiter, Random House Inc., New York, 1955.

THE LAST BUS FROM LAWRENCE

By Gordon D. Hall

(LRC's editor knew Richard Levine for close to 20 years. Because Levine's story of thwarted ambition is typical of the lives of many extremist activists, we reproduce here a posthumous profile written especially for the North American Newspaper Alliance late last fall.)

Richard Levine hated being a nobody. It robbed him, he complained, of the individuality he considered the "most precious thing in life." On the free speech malls of Boston's famed Common, where he hawked the wares of his segregationist White Citizen's Council, he fancied himself the potential victim of powerful, ruthless "enemies." "Many are out to destroy me," he warned, "but no matter what happens to me, my ideas will live."

The end came for Richard Levine, age 44, a few days ago. His frail body, strewn across the darkened highway of Interstate 93 in Wilmington, Massachusetts, just 18 miles from Boston, was battered beyond recognition. In death as in life, anonymity clung to him. He was struck, the police say, by at least 11 unidentified hit-and-run drivers. He had been hitchhiking back to Boston following the distribution of handbills in the city of Lawrence, just north of Wilmington. He had missed the last bus home by a matter of minutes.

There were two identification cards found on the body. One was for Richard Levine, his real name and one he detested. The other for the "Reverend Richard Hamel", a name and title he had adopted and liked very much. He died in a black minister's suit and a clerical collar.

His last residence was on South Russell Street, a small, dark room in a nondescript boarding house on the back and ugly side of the otherwise beautiful and fashionable Beacon Hill in downtown Boston.

His housekeeper showed no emotion, politely fielding my questions of Richard's recent whereabouts, and discouraging interviews with other boarders. "Dick always kept to himself," the man explained, "and no one around here knew anything about him. I doubt the others even know he is dead. Only way I know, the police were here earlier."

The housekeeper said his rent was up to date and he seemed in good spirits before setting out for his last recruitment effort. He had reason to be, for on the day of his death two morning papers had carried his letters to the editor They were on the stationery of the "George Wallace For President Movement", the latest of his far Right ventures.



Richard Levine, right, picketing the 178th Presbyterian General Assembly in Boston, Massachusetts, May 21, 1966. With Levine is Dr. Carl McIntire, founder of the extremist fundamentalist American Council of Christian Churches, sponsors of the picketing.

Hamel seldom had luck with such letters. He wrote many because he loved to see his name in print, but he was regarded as a crank and a publicity hound by local newspaper editors.

The Reverend Hamel alias was really an exercise in self-hatred. He sought to obliterate the name Levine and all traces of a Jewish background. This was especially sad and wasteful because he didn't get to know many people and those he did knew that he was Jewish. Before moving to the back side of Beacon Hill, he lived a long time in Boston's tough "combat zone" in the midst of drug addicts, prostitutes, homosexuals, alcoholics and drifters. He is remembered there, ironically, as the "little Jewish fellow."

Hamel is vaguely remembered by those who saw him last, the patrons of taverns in Lawrence where he had been distributing his "George Wallace for President" handbills. But they remember more about the local headlines of the hit and run death, and less about the segregationist literature he distributed A few of the patrons thought he had "acted like kind of a Communist or something."

He is remembered best by individuals with names like "No Face" and "Shorty", typical habitues of the combat zone's all-night-cafeterias. They remember his long, informal lectures over coffee, but they remember without comprehension or understanding. Hamel spent years trying to build a political base among such people, never once grasping the obvious fact that these people gave him an ear because they were lonely and without real friends to pass the long evening hours with.

BUTT OF NAZIS

There were other facts he failed to grasp. It never dawned on him that the segregationist (continued on page 8)

REQUIEM for the WELCH FUSILIERS

According to Belmont's Robert Welch, the tenth year of the John Birch Society finds it in "bounding good health." But an independent consultant (who specializes in diagnosing both left- and rightwing extremism) concludes that the Society is bounding only as well as a condition of rigor mortis will allow.

by GORDON HALL

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, celebrating its ninth anniversary this December, is in deep trouble. Membership is declining, income has fallen, and, more importantly, a stack of top level resignations has landed hard atop founder Robert Welch's headquarters desk in Belmont, Massachusetts. Several who have resigned are convinced that many more will follow in the weeks ahead.

Income for the first six months of this year is down 40 per cent from a year earlier, according to Thomas J. Davis, the Society's controller until his resignation a short time ago. Davis contends that 70 per cent of the Society's 1966 budget of 2 million dollars was in the form of gift contributions. Although the figures for this year are not complete, Davis says monthly contributions are far below last year's figures.

Maurice Lauzier, Jr., for two years a member of the headquarters staff, claims that membership has dipped to 60,000 from the high water mark of 75,000 set in the early months of 1965.

Lauzier, a one time organizer for the Society in southeastern Massachusetts, and a founder of the Fall River unit, left a few months ago. He calls himself a "defector traveling the long road back to political sanity.'

There is enough talent among the recently departed to begin an effective rival faction. In addition to Davis and Lauzier, two associate editors of the

trative vice-president. McGagin also ran the Society's speakers' bureau. Another Tom Davis, this one the eastern seaboard director of public relations, has also resigned. The most notable and the most surprising loss was John Rousselot, everybody's candidate to succeed the aging Robert Welch. The former California Congressman who held the \$30,000-ayear national public relations director post has accepted a job in private in-

> on the Society. It is far more likely that Rousselot, encouraged by the success of his close friend Governor Reagan, will again be

> dustry, adding that his resignation will

enable him to gain "a fresh perspective"

a candidate for public office. By divorcing himself from The John Birch Society now, Rousselot hopes to campaign later on a more respectable plat-

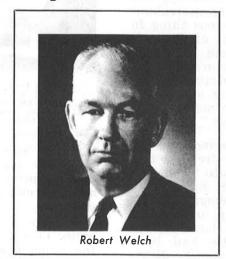
Welch says that Rousselot had "lost the fire for the job," and that his departure won't matter, but finding the right replacement will be difficult. In the face of impossible odds, Rousselot often succeeded in creating a favorable image for the Society. He was especially effective in fielding hostile questions from only partially informed newsmen, seizing on the slightest factual errors and turning them to his advan-

It would not be stretching the truth to suggest that Rousselot had actually become Welch's official interpreter, attempting to make palatable to the general public Welch's grotesque, conspiratorial view of history.

Welch's response thus far has been to minimize the importance of all the resignations and defections. Privately he is explaining that most of the departed were simply malcontents he "fired" as part of the regular process of "paring the deadwood from headquarters and the field."

Readers of the Society's regular publications are scarcely aware that a major internal shake-up has taken place. Beyond a few angry lines in the October, 1967, membership Bulletin (which Welch writes in its entirety) warning of the spreading of ". . . twisted tales of former associates and employees who are disgruntled now that they are no longer with the Society," there has been no official recognition of the present crisis.

Those who have severed the ties tell, of course, a very different story. Slobodan Draskovich, a former associate editor of American Opinion, left because



Society's monthly magazine American

Opinion have left, along with two men

who served as circulation managers.

Samuel Blumenfeld, the analysis editor

of Review Of The News, another Soci-

ety publication, has resigned to join a

commercial publishing firm. A Society

affiliate known as Robert Welch, Inc.,

has lost Michael McGagin, its adminis-

Gordon Hall has been studying American political extremist movements for over two decades. He frequently interviews the leaders and the rank-and-file of these movements, and has conferred recently with a number of the individuals mentioned in the article.

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DOES TREASONDAM
4 ASK of Welch's continuing inability to comprehend the nature of the Communist challenge. "When you start blaming the Illuminati," says Draskovich, "then you really are lost"—a reference to Welch's current charge that Washington and Moscow are controlled by a conspiracy originating with a Bavarian Masonic sect founded in 1776.

But Maurice Lauzier, in placing the blame for the present shake-up on the rigid, inflexible style of Welch's leadership, is much closer to the truth.

Lauzier explains it this way: "I admire Draskovich as a man and for pulling out before I did. And I resent Welch's telling others that his resignation was influenced by Communists.

"But irresponsibility is not the big reason for the breakdown at headquarters. If this were the issue then the resignations would have started years ago when Welch called Eisenhower a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy. I actually believed that nonsense. The disillusionment comes when you finally have to admit to yourself that Welch is the Society, and that the Society is Welch."

Lauzier also points out that the strife within has been a year or more in the making. The Society's internal documents strongly support him on this. On page one in the August, 1966, membership *Bulletin* for example, Welch posted these storm signals: "... For the past week, by sweating in lines at standby counters of the overcrowded airlines that are not on strike, I have been fighting my way from one city to another where acrimonious debates were raging among our members."

On page two Welch reluctantly admitted that ". . . once the disputes reached sizable proportions, the accusations on both sides tend to become unreasonable, blind, bitter, and extensive."

Welch blamed the difficulties on those unwilling to follow policy directives from headquarters—meaning, quite simply, the monthly agenda he writes each month for the members *Bulletin*.

He went on to offer assurance that he dislikes entering "into regional feuds as either protagonist or referee," though he had in fact acted as judge and juror while running roughshod over opposition to these directives. In his wake he left a string of resignations which he dismissed as negligible.

The House That Hiss Built



The 1966 summertime difficulties proved to be more than just "regional feuds." Trouble persisted, heightened by the resignation of Dr. Revilo Oliver, a University of Illinois professor who was at Welch's side when the Society was formed at an Indianapolis meeting nine years ago. Oliver is best remembered as the author of a particularly execrable attack on the memory of President Kennedy, published at a time when the nation was still in deep shock and mourning.

By October, 1966, Welch was again in full control of the situation. The "trouble makers" had been purged, and the time had come to give the membership a full report. He devoted the better part of the first four pages of that month's *Bulletin* to what he called a "concise clarification" of what he had published in August.

That "concise clarification" was, however, simply a sharp about-face, the kind of rewrite job Welch normally assails as "Communist" in style. The "sweating in lines" at crowded airline counters, while "fighting my way from one city to another," was changed to a routine "field trip" Welch had made "across the country."

The "acrimonious debates" raging extensively "among our members," suddenly were reduced to three scattered

incidents of a strictly personal nature, not related in any way to the "policies or program of the Society itself."

Welch is following the same pattern in the current crisis. Only one paragraph suggesting further treatment of the tales of ex-members and staff personnel appeared in the November, 1967, *Bulletin*. The rest of the 24 pages contained optimistic reports of the "bounding good health" of the Society.

The announcement of the Society's ninth "Birthday Party," scheduled for the New York Hilton Hotel on December 8th, filled the entire back page. Predictably, Welch boasted that "nearly twice" as many reservations as last year have been made.

For Welch, there is great risk in pretending that what amounts to a palace revolution is no more serious than a spate of angry resignations from several members in the boondocks unwilling to follow policy directives from Belmont headquarters. The men who recently departed were, for the most part, the big guns, and several of them are talking quite candidly to reporters. Droskovich told the Wall Street Journal on September 29th that he now "doubts the John Birch Society can be saved." The same paper quoted former public relations official Davis as no longer knowing "of anything that would make the John Birch Society again rise to any position of importance."

Maurice Lauzier is shopping about for the right market to tell his story in detail. And he told me he is going after the 50 odd individuals he brought into the Society. "Before I'm finished," said Lauzier, "I'm going to try to get every one I recruited out of the Society."

Undoubtedly, repercussions of the shake-up at headquarters will be felt for a long time. Meanwhile, with no strong personalities left to challenge bossman Welch, the Society's descent into total political apoplexy is virtually certain. An indication was provided in mid-October in the John Marshall Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. There, in a press interview before addressing 500 of the faithful, Welch stated that Barry Goldwater could not have won the Republican presidential nomination in 1964 if the "Communists in the GOP had not desired it."

The wonder is that there are even 500 of the faithful left anywhere.

Accompanying illustrations show the tenor of Birch Society's contributions to the American political forum.



THE AMERICAN NAZI PARTY - POST ASSASSINATION REPORT

By Gordon D. Hall

(George Lincoln Rockwell was murdered on August 25, 1967. Inquiries continue to flow into LRC's offices concerning the present status of the American Nazi Party. The article below reports on the Party's prospects for 1968)

In early September of last year, Henri Bolduc, a twenty-year old organizer for the American Nazi Party, told me during an interview in his Ashby, Massachusetts home that "the American Nazi Party won't last long now that Commander Rockwell is gone."

In Bolduc's view, "Rockwell was the Party, and the Party was Rockwell". Developments since the murder of Rockwell four months ago support this view. Party recruitment, a struggle at best, is at a standstill. Rockwell's violent death and the subsequent conviction of former aide John Patler have frightened away all but the fanatical hard core. The membership, never more than a few hundred, has been reduced to an infinitesimal figure.

The Party's new "Commander", thirty-three year old Matthias Koehl, appears ill at ease in his new post. A dedicated member since the fall of 1962, the quiet, colorless Koehl served the Party as general secretary from late in 1963 until Rockwell's death.

Koehl is having particular difficulty keeping the Party's scattered regional units intact. The New England unit, for example, very active in the first six months of 1967, is now moribund. Henri Bolduc and his brother Raymond, prime agitators in this unit, have left the Party. Henri applied for a passport abroad in the early fall, listing West Germany, Spain, and Portugal as his itinerary. Raymond, 24, is presently a race track handicapper. The unit has closed the two post office boxes it had employed for Party correspondence.

Nothing has come of a dramatic bid by the Bolduc brothers to "construct a gas chamber" on the family's seven acre site facing Turnpike Road in Ashby. On July 20, 1967, Henri sent a formal letter to the town's Board of Selectmen, requesting an interview to "discuss the final plans and the cost of a building permit" for a gas chamber capable of handling "500 Jews per hour". Bolduc cautioned the Selectman not to dismiss the letter as a "crank" adding "I fully intend to press for my right to have a Gas Chamber." The murder of Commander Rockwell a month later led the Bolducs to abandon their grisly plans.

Rockwell's death also ended any chance for the Party to follow through on their announced plans to open a New England regional headquarters. Willis Corson, a strong Party sympathizer had offered a small building on his Londonderry, New Hampshire property to Rockwell.

I visited Corson at his home on May 28th. Surprised and upset, he refused to discuss the transfer of part of his property to the Nazis. "I get their literature sometimes", Corson said, "but I don't know anything about any plans for headquarters around here." Later the same day Corson traveled to the Presidents' City Motel in Quincy, Massachusetts for a secret

conference with a dozen members of the Party's New England unit.

Two other "big" announcements failed to produce much in 1967. The first one involved changing the Party's name to the "National Socialist White People's Party". Rockwell announced that this change would "represent a

(continued on page 8)



Some Notes on a Regular Feature of Left, Right, Center

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1950.

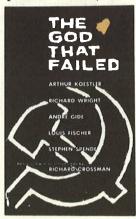
Books of the Times

By ORVILLE PRESCOTT

Many of our friends and correspondents, and especially those who most encouraged us to launch this monthly newsletter, have been most insistent about the need for a good bibliography on the subject of political extremism.

We agree that such a bibliography would be helpful, but we take a dim view of simply publishing a long list of book titles and authors. The path we have chosen is that of recommending a book or two each month, complete with the full and original text of an outstanding review from responsible publications. This will expose our readers in some depth at least, to a dozen or more important books in a single year. This strikes us as being of far greater value than an alphabetical listing of titles and authors.

We have chosen The God That Failed, edited by Richard Crossman for the first entry in LRC's bibliography. Originally published by Harper's in 1950, two paperback editions are now available. A Harper Colophon edition is priced at \$1.60. A Bantam Matrix reprint retails for \$.75.



Harper Colphon Books — \$1,60

NE of the most interesting psychological phenomena of our time is the attraction communism exerted, particularly during the Nineteen Thirties, upon a minority of literary intellectuals. Sympathetic commentators are fond of reminding us of the circumstances at that time, a world-wide depression and the menace of fascism. But such circumstances do not explain the majority of intelligent human beings who did not applaud one variety of totalitarian tyranny because they detested another. There must have been peculiar and powerful reasons driving our modern Gadarene swine toward the Communist precipice. An attempt to describe the state of mind of Communist converts and the reasons why many of them recanted into heresy after a few years may be found in "The God That Failed,"* a collection of six political confessions edited by Richard Crossman.

Mr. Crossman is a brilliant British Labor Member of Parliament, an authority on Plato and foreign affairs, author of "Palestine Mission," in which he advocated partition as the only feasible solution to Arab-Jewish conflict. His six contributors are four former members of Communist parties, Arthur Koestler, Ignazio Silone, Richard Wright and Stephen Spender, and two ardent fellow-travelers, André Gide and Louis Fischer. These six distinguished men have little new or important to say about Russia or communism. But what they have to say about themselves is of considerable interest.

All of them became foes of communism because they discovered the truth about it, its destruction of freedom and human dignity, its cynical duplicity, its cruelty, its use of fraud and force to maintain a monolithic slave state. But like children who do not believe that a fire is hot until they, have burned their hands they refused to believe these facts until they had painful contact with them. Their desire to be deluded and made use of was greater than their desire to be intelligent and informed.

Empirical Way to Disillusion

Their original conversions had similar origins, too—awareness of various deficiencies in democracy and a passionate longing for Utopia. This longing seems to have had an element of hysteria about it, an irrational craving for a faith to answer all doubts, for authority, for an escape from personal responsibility into the service of an ideal which demanded sacrifice and discipline. Communist conversion on the intellectual level is not very different from religious conversion. Of the six converts represented in this book three can plead the extenuating circumstances of callow youthfulness, poverty and ignorance. The other three were better educated and more sophisticated in the affairs of the world.

Arthur Koestler, who grew up in the post-war turmoil of Central Europe among the ruins of

 THE GOD THAT FAILED. By Arthur Koestler, Ignazio Silone, Richard Wright, André Gide, Louis Fischer and Stephen Spender. Edited by Richard Crossman. 273 pages. Harper. \$3.50.

collapsed societies and ruined classes, succumbed with passionate gullibility to an infection in the very air around him. If Utopia existed in Russia and the Nazis were about to make an inferno of Germany he wanted to fight on the side of the angels. He was an enrolled party member for more than six years during the Thirties and lost his last illusion only after the Russian-German pact of 1939. His account of life in the Party, its conspiratorial methods and intellectual bondage, is the most dramatic and the bestwritten chapter in this book. Mr. Koestler learned slowly; but he learned well. Today he is one of the most effective foes of communism in the world. "We ex-Communists," he says with some truth, "are the only people on your side who know what it is all about."

Ignazio Silone grew up in the Abruzzi, one of the most backward and impoverished regions in Italy. As a boy in his teens he became convinced that he had only one choice: to become a rebel against injustice or its accomplice. He became a militant Socialist and soon afterward a Communist. But on trips to Russia he found out what communism was really like and how it was run. "Liberty," he explained to an editor in the Soviet publishing trust, "is the possibility of doubting, the possibility of making a mistake, the possibility of searching and experimenting, the possibility of saying 'no' to any authority—literary, artistic, philosophic, religious, social and even political."

"But that," the horrified editor replied, "is counter-revolution."

An Unmasking in America

Richard Wright became a convert when he was on public relief in the Black Belt of Chicago. Since communism had no color bias, his enlistment was more an emotional protest against racial discrimination than anything else. He soon discovered the pathological nature of some of his comrades and the fawning subservience to party decisions demanded of them all. His story is nearly as interesting and lively as Mr. Koestler's.

The other three chapters of "The God That Failed" are less interesting. André Gide felt guilty about social inequalities and admired communism until he went to Russia and saw it in action. He had admired in ignorance. As soon as he was informed he acknowledged his error and protested.

That is more than Louis Fischer did. As a correspondent he lived in Russia for years and knew all about secret police, slave labor, informers, etc. But "seeing did not interfere with believing." He, too, did not complete his cure until after the Russian-German pact.

Stephen Spender's flirtation with communism was brief. His case seems to have been one of idealistic befuddlement. It is interesting to note that it does not seem to have occurred to any of these six heretics that Communist tyranny in Russia could be, in part, a natural development from Socialist organization of government and economics.

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THE LAST BUS (continued from page 3)

literature he distributed would appeal largely to racial and religious bigots. Two years ago, for example, he found two dozen American Nazi Party members at the door of his grubby apartment in the combat zone.

These were local Nazis in search of a minister to serve as a "unit Chaplain." Hamel was just starting to organize the local White Citizen's Council. The meeting ended early, for Hamel's masquerade as a minister was quickly discovered. He found himself the butt of the cruel anti-Jewish jokes of the Nazi hoodlums.

Hamel reached the extreme Right by way of the extreme Left. He joined the Young Communist League in his teens, left in his early twenties. "Communist leadership pays no attention to the rank and file," he complained. "I was ignored so I was dissatisfied."

Like many ex-Communists, he shifted his energies and loyalties to the extreme Right without casting a glance at the democratic middle. The first of his far Rightist ventures, the American Fascist Union, was formed in 1950.

His quest for public recognition was of the soap-box variety, but on occasion he moved his floating political road show indoors. He rented a hall in the Boston's Hotel Touraine in April, 1966 for the public launching of his White Citizen's Council, but for some inexplicable reason placed the advertising in out-of-state newspapers rather than the Boston dailies. Only 11 people turned out, and no one signed up.

F. B. I. TRACE

The one time he actually sought anonymity, he was not only found out, but received a great deal of unfavorable publicity. He mailed taped messages recorded in a phony foreign accent to a number of Boston residents. The messages were violent and threatening. The two sent to me were no exception. They suggested that I was to be a victim of a "necktie party", a trite euphemism for a lynching.

The F. B. I. traced the recording to Hamel and a Federal Grand Jury indicted and convicted him. A compassionate Judge, mindful of the background of the defendant, wisely recommended a three-year probationary sentence and psychiatric counseling. He was serving that sentence when all those autos dismembered his body last weekend.

Richard Hamel will soon be forgotten. The housekeeper has probably rented the empty room on South Russell Street by now. And Shorty and No-Face will soon be sitting over coffee with another "good talker" offering panaceas for the world's ills.

— NANA —

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

(LRC believes the extremist mentality is divorced from reality. This monthly department is designed to dramatically illustrate the point.)

"In response to a question regarding the call for a world meeting of Communist and Worker's parties, Gus Hall, general secretary of the Communist Party, U.S.A., stated Monday:

"The initiative for a world consultative meeting of Communist and Marxist parties is a reflection of three central factors.

- "(1) It is a responsible fighting response to the growing need for a more united struggle against world imperialism and U. S. policies of imperialist aggression.
- "(2) It is in response to, and a reflection of, the growing unity in the ranks of the world forces of anti-imperialism.
- "(3) It is in response to, and a reflection of, the growing unity of the World Communist and Marxist movement."

The Worker, organ of the Communist Party, U.S.A., December 3, 1967, page 3

THE AMERICAN NAZI PARTY (continued from page 6)

major milestone in the advance of National Socialism in the United States". He issued a directive boasting that the new name would surely "widen the Party's mass appeal", adding that the "old name lacked suitability for a serious political movement which had matured beyond the initial shock phase".

The second big announcement was the creation of a tabloid sized newspaper entitled White Power to service "the White Revloution". The newspaper is already in deep trouble for its format relied heavily on the art work of John Patler, sentenced to twenty years in prison for the murder of George Lincoln Rockwell. The Party now desperately needs a competent artist to draw the large anti-Jewish, anti-Negro cartoons so appealing to the sullen, anti-social types attracted to the bigotry and violence of the Nazi movement.

Neither Koehl nor any of the present crop of subordinate officers can hope to fill the void created by the murder of Rockwell. The new Commander can consider 1968 a success if he does little more than keep his small band of fanatical Hitler-worshippers from committing acts of violence on one another as well as upon innocent strangers.