Letters

Praise from Senator O'Conor

I am writing to express my interest, as well as my approval, of the inclusion by the *Freeman* of articles relating to infiltration of international organizations by subversives. Particularly do I have reference to the articles signed by Alice Widener, which give every evidence of an intelligent approach to this perplexing problem and of clarity and sound judgment in presenting it.

In regard to this very important subject matter, I trust that the *Freeman* may find it possible to continue presenting the facts to the attention of the reading public.

Washington, D. C. HERBERT R. O'CONOR

Sister Kenny's Theory

Re your comment about Sister Kenny [The Fortnight, December 15]: she advocated one method of physiotherapy for acute polio. It had been used for years and it was helpful; it still is one of our aids.

Sister Kenny waged her campaign for popularity on a different front. As she sat at the bedside of her patients she devised a hypothetical course of events throughout the course of active polio; she devised a theoretical pathology based upon her philosophy. Her theory was completely incorrect and, by scientific means, has repeatedly been proved to be incorrect. She ignored the scientific proofs and went to the people as a martyr. (Incidently, it is quite irrelevant whether her philosophy was correct or incorrect.)

She had the press and still has the *Freeman* (out of its field). Bob Zuppke used to tell his Illinois football squads; "If I bawl one of you out it's because I see good in you." With best wishes from your ardent booster and subscriber,

LAWRENCE T. BROWN, M. D.
Denver, Colo.

Mr. Cooke Explains

May I briefly set Mr. Forrest Davis straight on a serious misapprehension he seems to be under in his first "Editor's Notebook," [December 15] and which may mislead your readers? Commenting on the intention of Lord Jowitt, a former Lord Chancellor, to write a book on the Hiss case, he writes this remarkable sentence: "It is unlikely that any new evidence has been furnished him by Alistair Cooke or any of the others who have been implicated in the matter of procuring Jowitt's interest." I can't speak for the "others," whoever they may be. But I should simply like to state that I do not know Lord Jowitt or any of his friends, nor have I ever had any communication with him on any subject whatsoever.

On another matter, you rightly scolded me for the sweeping misstatement that when a new American Administration comes to power, there is "nothing to stop the dismissal of a government department staff from top to bottom." The excellent Professor Spann of Manchester University challenged me on that one in a letter to the *Guardian* and I confessed that he had caught me with my Civil Service statistics down. At the same time, I still think that any new Administration has too much power to demote, and to transfer to politically innocuous assignments, valuable men just below the policy-making level. I believe there is a Republican bill in the hopper which would assure more continuity of expert knowledge, for incoming policy chiefs to tap, by creating something like the British permanent under-secretaryships. It seems to me to be a good idea. It has nothing to do with the partisan sympathy towards the New Deal which you attribute to me, or to any concern for "Mr. Cooke's nervous cronies in the State Department." I have no cronies in the State Department, New Deal, nervous, or otherwise.

New York City ALISTAIR COOKE

The Income Tax Increase

Harley L. Lutz, in "How the Income Tax Destroys You," [December 15], refers to the middle class "that is in greatest danger from the oppressive rates of income tax."

In 1940 a married man with two children and a net income of $5000 paid, after exemptions, about $40 Federal income tax. For 1952 the tax will be nearly $600 for a man similarly situated. Did someone say: "You never had it so good. Don't let them take it away"?

Brooklyn, N. Y. HOWARD W. TONER

On College Faculties

You are to be congratulated on the publication of that most admirable article of Louis Bromfield, "The Triumph of the Egghead" [December 15]. . . . His definition of the egghead is superb. I enjoyed particularly the statement, "so given to examining all sides of a question that he becomes thoroughly addled while remaining always in the same spot."

I have been frequently asked by my friends outside of purely academic circles why so many of the inmates of our universities (not all "bush league") are of the egghead variety. My reply has been to the effect that they have been so completely surrounded by their cloistered atmosphere that idealism rather than realism guides their thinking. The real mob is overlooked in their survey of the "theoretical mob." . . .

B. J. SPENCE, Professor Emeritus
Northwestern University
Evanston, Ill.

Great Library Mystery Deepens

[*"In the Libraries," an editorial in our last issue, quoted a letter which a friend of the* Freeman *had written to Mr. John M. Cory of the New York Public Library, complaining that the* Freeman *was kept in a locked drawer at the Library's Cathedral Branch. Mr. Cory has replied to our friend as follows, and sent a copy of his letter to us.*
THE EDITORS]

Thank you for your letter of December 9, complaining about the apparent unavailability of the *Freeman* at the Cathedral Branch. I have inquired into the matter and should like to report to you as follows:

You ask that some way be found to make the *Freeman* available to all. It is precisely to accomplish this end that copies of this periodical are kept in the drawer since it is definitely a fact that the *Freeman* is stolen when it is put on the open rack, consequently depriving regular readers of the *Freeman* and defeating the purpose which you wish us to achieve. Experience has led us to believe that we can provide the best service in connection with this particular periodical if the *Freeman* is kept easily available on request, but not placed on the open rack.

I may say that we deeply resent your implication that this solution of a difficult problem is in any way a "devilishly clever plot to suppress libertarian literature." The New York Public Library is very proud to present material on all sides of any question and we resist every effort to exclude materials or to restrict their availability. I do not endeavor to understand why the *Freeman* disappears from the open rack but since it does I believe that you and other readers of it will be best served under the present arrangement.

JOHN MACKENZIE CORY
Chief of Circulation Department
The New York Public Library
New York City

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The Fortnight

The newspapers, as the old year ran out, were filled with tidings of woe. A Marine was killed in New York City after he had tossed two grenades in a bar and injured fourteen people. The full story of the Katyn murders of 1940 had finally been unfolded before a Congressional committee. Details about theft, murder and mayhem on the New York waterfront were piling up. The death statistics connected with the Korean police action continued to mount. Just to reassure ourselves that 1953 will not *necessarily* be dominated by the devil, we went back to Mr. Dooley. Said Dooley to Hennessy during one of his wise disquisitions on the habits of newspapers: "They've got to print what's diff'rent. Whenever they begin to put headlines on happiness, contint, varchoo, an' charity, I'll know things is goin' as wrong with this country as I think they ar're ivry national campaign." That made us feel considerably better. As mehitabel, Don Marquis's cat, said to archy the cockroach, there's life in the old girl (in this case, our free and tractable society) yet.

The tax experts have estimated that when the Truman Administration goes out of office the Federal government will be five and a half billion dollars deeper in debt than it was in 1945. Thus, aside from taxes, Harry Truman's brand of government cost a little less than a billion a year. Posterity, which will be presented with the bill, may very well be inclined to murmur something about taxation without representation. The only trouble is that King Harry, unlike King George the Third, will be dead and beyond reach of the John Hancocks and Samuel Adamses of 1976.

A spirit of amelioration seems to be abroad in the land. George Meany, new president of the American Federation of Labor, says his organization is willing to settle for less than repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act. Senator Welker of Idaho says the Republican Party is willing to "correct" the Taft-Hartley Act. It is commonly understood in Washington that Senator Taft will not oppose the confirmation of the AFL's Martin P. Durkin as Secretary of Labor. Taft himself is for certain changes in his own labor legislation. All of this points to a fair and equitable working relationship between the AFL and the incoming Eisenhower Administration. Now if only the CIO will fall into line, we may have an Era of Good Feeling, or at least a fairly durable honeymoon, between management, labor and government. Here's hoping that Walter Reuther, new head of the CIO, will see things George Meany's way.

In the great port of New York, as every newspaper reader must know by this time, there is plenty of corruption and crime along the waterfront. Yet West Coast ship operators say that it costs less to clear goods at the dockside in New York than it does in San Francisco. On the West Coast the left-wing longshoreman's unions run an "ideological racket" and "don't care whether school keeps or not." In other words, capitalist corruption costs less than Communist and left-wing "purity." This, while it is no excuse for capitalist corruption, would seem to prove that Communist ideology is a far worse form of corruption in itself. We have always known in our bones that the Communist way of doing business was a waste of human energy, and we are glad to see that the comparative arithmetic of New York and San Francisco shipping firms proves it out in dollars and cents for everyone to see.

Can any one imagine the "internationalist" vituperations that would have come down on us if we had ever dared propose for Britain that "the real current incomes of all classes, except the poorest, will have to be temporarily reduced"? Yet, this is (verbatim) the medicine prescribed for ailing Britain by none other than G. D. H. Cole, the Webbs' unchallenged heir to economic omniscience in the British Labor Party. He now contends that the English people has been living continuously beyond its means; that this has really nothing to do with recent rearmament expenditures; that "the ground lost can be regained and a new advance begun only *after* there has been a large increase in productivity."

Which is exactly what the *Freeman* for so long has been trying to say *in re* American aid to