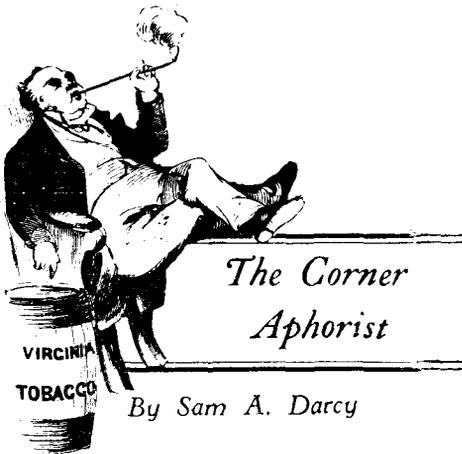


race as a tune-up for a serious bid to become mayor of Baltimore next year, cracked jokes.

That was the end of the story. George Mahoney, a decent, not-too-bright man who wanted badly to be governor and thought he could ride to the statehouse aboard a slogan, has returned to his Baltimore County estate and pulled up the drawbridge. He gave Maryland one of the strangest campaigns the state has ever seen, but that is poor consolation to a seven-time loser.



►THE SOUTH KOREANS carried signs reading, "WELCOME BIG SHOT OF THE FREE WORLD." Cousin Barnegat, ex-chicken farmer, thought his banker was there. It was only President Johnson. What does a Korean know?

In Malaysia, Thailand, Australia, the Philippines and New Zealand, they rioted. Warm welcome. In Saigon, our largest ammunition dump blew up. Even warmer. U. S. aircraft carrier Oriskany and a minesweeper detonated. Horribly warmer. Then the Chinese exploded their nuclear bomb. Hot-- too darn hot. All in 17 days. LBJ wondered whether he should have seen America First. "OK," they told him, "but not in Asia." Don't those people know that our President is at heart for peace. In action? No. But in heart.

►SECRETARY RUSK (whatever happened to him?), once said that we're in Vietnam to stop Red China from taking over other Asian countries.



Just goes to show how dumb those Chinese are: while the US is bogged down in Vietnam they could be "taking over" almost unopposed. But are they? No. Well, what are they waiting for? Maybe they don't plan to do it--just to make Rusk look bad. See, you can't trust those Chinese.

►THE TWO MEN most responsible for spreading troublesome ideas are Mao in Peking and Brezhnev in Moscow. The minute they step out of their bathrooms in the morning our difficulties begin. Why not put a Marine right there to stop them before they start

operating? Who listens to unshaven men in their underwear? The door to their bathrooms--that's the frontier to which we should push our national security.



HUMOR BOOKS

Send stamped-addressed envelope to Laff Book Club, 4323 32nd Rd. So., Arlington, Va., 22206. For free copy of Laff Book Club Newsletter. "Very funny," says Humor Lobbyist Jim Atkins.

► FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS:

Linda Newman writes: "The older generation thought nothing of getting up at six in the morning; I can assure you the younger generation doesn't think much of it either."

Michael Temple writes: "Raising children is like baking bread; it has to be a slow process or you end up with an overdone crust and an underdone interior."

► DECEMBER IN THE OLD Roman Calendar was the tenth month of the year-- hence its name. Romulus put it under the protection of the goddess Vesta. That reminds us that when we were in Rome last year we saw the temple of the Vestal Virgins. It's closed now; shortage of help, no vestals.

The McDowell Papers

By Charles

McDowell, Jr.



WASHINGTON

This country can avoid ever going through another election like the one just past.

Now is the time to go to work to improve the next one and set a new standard for all future elections in the United States.

What is needed is innovation, organization and the determination not to stand up and be counted until election day. What is needed, in short, is the League of Undecided Voters.

The League of Undecided Voters will address itself to some of the main faults that showed up in the election of Nov. 8, 1966. These faults have been showing up increasingly in American elections for the past decade or two.

There was not much suspense in the election. Thus it was not much fun. When you take the suspense and fun out of the election, you are left with one of the dreariest enterprises that mankind has conceived.

Apathy was everywhere, and the percentage of qualified voters who turned out was, as usual, a national disgrace.

What else can be expected when the pollsters tell us in advance, with scientific precision, who will win most of the races?

Why get worked up over a contest that has already been decided? Why get involved in a process that seems to have been taken over by computers?

Polls do more than ruin the fun and suspense. They solidify whims. They congeal passing fancies. They encourage bandwagon-jumping. They rearrange issues and transform candidates.

Many candidates commission polls to find out what issues are the most effective vote-getters, what the people would like to hear the candidate say about them, and what kind of fellow they would like him to be. The art of politics is becoming the art of reading percentages.

The League of Undecided Voters can

