

Letters

The Southern Regional Council

I have never been offered the position of Director of the Southern Regional Council ["Doing a Little for Others and a Lot for Ourselves," James Fallows, April].

The real story about foundation influence in the South has yet to be told. It is a story of how the New York based foundations use three black men—two based in New York and one here in Atlanta—as their surrogates in deciding who does and who doesn't merit their support. If a request threatens the institutions or programs favored by these three, it doesn't get funded. At the same time, these three are free to duplicate—with heavy foundation support—any existing program that they are unable to exercise control of, and to eventually direct funds and approval exclusively toward their own creatures.

At best, scarce monies are wasted in duplication, and in too frequent trips to New York-based monitors examining monthly basis programs as strange to them as grits to an Eskimo; at worst, some awfully worthwhile programs go begging and face eventual starvation.

JULIAN BOND
Atlanta, Ga.

Julian Bond is a member of the Georgia legislature.

We have, of course, read your recent article on the Council, and we think there is little need to engage in extended debate on your opinions. We are writing simply to reiterate certain points which we thought had been made clear to you in our conversations.

The Southern Regional Council has for 30 years relied on accurate, objective reporting and nonpartisan analysis of public issues as one of the essential ingredients of change in the South, on issues ranging from constitutional rights to hunger. We will continue to do so.

You interpreted SRC's program as aiming for election of a group of liberals. The context of the conversation from which that was taken was that candidates for public office should have basic information, impartial and objective, on the issues and policy alternatives which affect Southerners. We hope that an informed public will make choices that result in solution of regional problems, but we are not so prescient as to say that the problem-solvers, all or some, will be "liberals," nor is the Council's constituency limited to any one political philosophy.

The development of community organizations as instruments for social change has been an SRC priority for nearly a decade. Presently several of our programs are built around such organizations and around the priorities they help define. The fact is, too, that the Council over the past year has been the conduit for grants of a quarter of a million dollars to such organizations.

The South needs more resources for the whole range of organizations dealing with critical problems facing the region, particularly poor and minorities. While further and wider support is being built for the diverse approaches needed, the Council will continue, either through its own auspices or as an advocate for other organizations, its efforts to bring resources—from whatever source—to bear on the South's problems.

GEORGE ESSER
HARRY BOWIE
Atlanta, Ga.

George Esser and Harry Bowie are the directors of The Southern Regional Council.

'Dictatorial Powers as a Last Resort'

I am the GSA attorney referred to on page 41 of your May issue in your article on the Federal Home Loan Bank Board project ["We Try to Use Dictatorial Powers Only as a Last Resort," Walter Shapiro], in which article it was implied that I was part of a "policy of either deliberate lying or willful deception." Such implication is entirely false.

On February 26, 1974, I received a call from Attorney Patrick Macrory, who advised me that he represented a client interested in preserving certain buildings on the Federal Home Loan Bank Board project site, and that he was considering seeking a court order temporarily restraining demolition of such buildings. He asked what GSA's intentions were with respect to demolition of such buildings. I advised Mr. Macrory that I assumed that it was GSA's intention not to proceed with such demolition until GSA had completed its discussions with the Advisory

Council on Historic Preservation. I added, however, that I would verify that assumption because I had had little personal contact with the project up to that time. I then called a member of the GSA project management staff who confirmed my assumption, and thereafter called Mr. Macrory and advised him of this verification. I also supplied him with the telephone number of the GSA project management office so that he could call there directly in the event he wanted to be updated on the situation in the future and I was not then available.

I did not advise anyone of my conversations with Mr. Macrory because it did not occur to me that GSA would proceed in any manner other than as I had stated to Mr. Macrory. I left the following day on a business trip to Connecticut and Pennsylvania and did not return to Washington until Sunday evening, March 3, 1974.

When I arrived at my office at GSA on the morning of Monday, March 4, 1974, I found a message to call Mr. Macrory and was informed for the first time that demolition of the buildings in which he was interested had been undertaken over the prior weekend. I immediately called Mr. Macrory and advised him that I had had no prior knowledge that such a course of action was being considered, or that a decision to proceed with demolition had been made, and further, that I was very embarrassed by what had transpired in my absence in view of our prior conversations.

I want it to be very clearly understood that my actions with respect to this matter in no way constituted "deliberate lying or willful deception" as implied in your article. I conduct myself with sincerity and integrity in both my professional and personal affairs, and am deeply offended by your publication of any statement or implication to the contrary.

ROBERT R. RICE
Washington, D.C.

Educational Testing Service

Although time and space do not permit extensive discussion of the errors present in "Inside the Educational Testing Service" [Eric Rodriguez, March], I want to cite a few by way of illustration.

We make no apology for the fact that ETS has changed as education has changed, and that we have successfully undertaken activities in a number of new areas, although the article cites such developments in tones of opprobrium. Contrary to Mr. Rodriguez' assertion that ETS "convinced" admissions offices to "go along" with the Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS), it was the

Law School Admission Council, an association of 153 American law schools, that established the LSDAS because of the dramatic increase in the number of law school applicants and the consequent volume of admission data. His reference to the "dissatisfaction" of the Association of American Medical Colleges and the transfer last year of the Medical School Admissions Test (MCAT) is also incorrect: ETS has not administered the MCAT since 1959.

Mr. Rodriguez' unfamiliarity with ETS has led to an erroneous conclusion also in his discussion of the College Board, ETS, and the Graduate and Professional Financial Aid Service. Although he implies some antipathy between this activity and the College Board's College Scholarship Service (CSS), in fact the CSS Council was a founding member of the Graduate and Professional Financial Aid Service. Indeed, the past chairman of the CSS Council currently serves as chairman of the Graduate and Professional Financial Aid Council, which establishes policies for the service. Mr. Rodriguez is also mistaken in his discussion of the validity study that ETS was to conduct for a Washington, D.C. university on two points. First, ETS did not "bungle" by erasing the tapes: the tapes did not have the information on them when they were received at ETS. Second, ETS performs this service free of charge for the institution requesting it, so there was no "contract."

Further, Mr. Rodriguez apparently perceives our research efforts as no more than a separate set of business contracts for ETS. Your readers might be interested in the fact that ETS is conducting the broadest continuing program of educational research in this country. I can think of few areas in which it is as important to have basic research carefully pursued.

WILLIAM W. TURNBULL
Princeton, N. J.

William Turnbull is president of the Educational Testing Service.

Eric Rodriguez replies:

Mr. Turnbull has set the record straight on the date of the MCAT transfer. I regret my erroneous account on this point. As for the larger issues raised by Turnbull, it is not that the energetic pursuit of research contracts, the wide-ranging diversification, even the questionable marketing techniques are so objectionable in themselves. This may be incongruous behavior for a non-profit institution such as ETS, but there is a more pragmatic issue than that of seemliness: namely, can ETS reconcile its own imperatives with its responsibilities to its founders, to the academic community, and to its captive clients, the students? The evidence

suggests that this reconciliation is not easily effected.

Your article on the Educational Testing Service prompts me to add a brief condemnation of another "service": the American Medical College Admissions Service, or AMCAS. This organization, hindered by the Byzantine regulations of viscous minds, has only confused and frustrated many hundreds of medical school applicants. The needless nonsense of having to send in transcripts (an expensive and delaying action) only to have AMCAS sit on them for weeks (despite their exhortations to the contrary) is an extreme burden to the already beleaguered applicant. AMCAS, furthermore, provides the "service" of computing grade point averages already computed on most university transcripts, and that's all that most applicants need, since they go to only one university or college as an undergraduate. But the straw that breaks the camel's back is what the applicant must do to apply to medical schools for the next year, should he not gain admission the first time, viz., he must go through the entire nonsense again of sending in transcripts and money (by the way, AMCAS is not free), even though there has been no change or addition to the applicant's academic record. AMCAS says not to send in recommendations until notified by the individual medical school to do so; however, most medical schools want such recommendations immediately. My exhortations to AMCAS brought only the standard bureaucratic verbiage. Of course, the applicant has no idea what "subjective analyses" AMCAS might send to the medical schools should he call them to task for such shortcomings. So why not continue with a series on such testing services? Don't stop with ETS, the CEEB, and the LSAT; go right on to the MCAT, AMCAS, the Dental School tests, and other such fraudulent services, existing at the pleasure of the professional schools for the auxiliary analyses and beautiful Gaussian curves.

PAUL S. CHERRY
Philadelphia, Pa.

"Toys for the Generals"

The title which you gave my excerpt, "7,000 Toys for the Generals" [May], implies, incorrectly, that my comments blame the presence of a greatly excessive number of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe on military decisions and that these weapons are a particular source of enjoyment to our General officers. Neither of these implications is the fact.

Thousands of tactical nuclear weapons were deployed in Europe because of misguided national policies and not any military need. The action was not a response to any demand from the military services. I can think of no weapons systems that could be characterized as "Toys for the Generals" with less accuracy than is the case here.

PAUL WARNKE
Washington, D.C.

"Flying Fuhrerbunker"

A few editorial changes in my article titled "The Flying Fuhrerbunker" (April, 1974) may have resulted in misconceptions by readers. I would like to clarify by noting that: 1) Former Senator Eugene McCarthy made no reference to low tide in his remark about the use of submarines. He just suggested "a tunnel from the White House to the shore of the Potomac, with a special sub waiting there in the mud." In other words, he was mocking the whole concept of a command post. 2) America has so many nuclear bombs that it is hard to keep track of them. But I know of only one storehouse for them in New Mexico; it is in the Manzano Mountains near Albuquerque. 3) Herman Kahn is no optimist about results of an all-out nuclear attack on the United States. As early as 1962, Kahn predicted that the Russians might soon be able to destroy 75-100% of our people with an all-out attack.

MARY MEEHAN
Washington, D.C.

Cancellation Notice

Please cancel our subscription. In fact we never subscribed to your magazine and find it worthless.

WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS
Washington, D.C.

Editor's note:

We received the Justice's letter in May. In April we ran the following Book Note on *Go East, Young Man*:

Justice Douglas has some fascinating stories to tell, particularly about the days of the New Deal, but his consistent inability to criticize himself tends to make his autobiography disappointingly one-dimensional. How this great hero of all of us who love the First Amendment could have been on the take from the Las Vegas-based Parvin Foundation may be explained by this sentence: "Leonard Lyons, famous columnist, and his wife, Sylvia, were among the most talented couples I ever knew." In other words, Douglas wanted to know the celebrities. "I sometimes went with Lennie on his rounds. He knew all the celebrities, their scandals as well as their other lives. . . ." ■

Jack Anderson and the Eagleton Case

by Brit Hume

When the wrongs of government are perpetrated by a Hitler—or even a Nixon—it is hard for decent men to see the roots of those wrongs in themselves. This is why we embarked on our Moral Myopia series about the sins of people we on the whole admire. The first two were about The New York Review of Books and the staff of the Senate Watergate committee. This one is about Jack Anderson, a man whom both we and the author, Brit Hume, believe is one of the truly outstanding reporters in America. But he is also capable of making some serious errors. One was his arrangement with J. Edgar Hoover, as we once reported in Tidbits and Outrages, whereby he agreed to write only “nice things” about the FBI director in exchange for access to the Bureau’s file. Brit Hume’s story explores the reasons behind another of Anderson’s mistakes.

On Tuesday, July 25, Senator Thomas Eagleton of Missouri, the man selected by Senator George McGovern as his running mate on the Democratic presidential ticket, held a news conference in a resort lodge in the Black Hills of South Dakota where McGovern had been resting before the campaign. Two reporters for the Knight Newspapers, Robert Boyd and Clark Hoyt, had established that

Brit Hume is a former associate of Jack Anderson. This article is adapted from his book, Inside Story, to be published in August by Doubleday.

Eagleton had three times been hospitalized for mental disorders.

With the Knight papers poised to break the story, Eagleton and McGovern decided to make a public confession immediately. Eagleton’s statement to a roomful of stunned reporters contained assurances that he was fully recovered, that his problem had been “nervous exhaustion” and that he had learned to “pace” himself so that he would not have the problem again. Nevertheless, he acknowledged that he had undergone electric-shock treatment on two of the occasions when he had been hospitalized. There could be no doubt that it was a devastating development for the Democratic ticket. Eagleton was an attractive and articulate man, considered a remarkably talented politician by his colleagues. But would the public place a man with a history of mental illness a heartbeat from the presidency? Most people doubted it. The headlines the next morning were very large.

I stopped in Jack’s office the next day before going to my own. He had just done his morning radio show and was going through some papers at his desk.

“It seems to me,” I said, “that this Eagleton press conference left some questions unanswered.”

“Oh?” said Jack.

“Well, in a separate interview with the Knight papers, he said something about still taking some ‘little blue