

Stop the noise  
all you men of strife.



Listen  
to the angels sing.

December 1970

A RESPONSE TO "THE CENSUS"  
IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER\*

You appear to be a very, very bitter young man. These may be the feelings of some people like yourself, however our government is not a dictatorship, it is not fascist and it is obviously not glorifying war when that war threatens to split it in half. Our government is the result of a democratic process and you would do much more in the way of altering its course by making people aware of problems and arousing a sense of concern in them than you will by attacking their way of life.

I am atypical of the people you attack by attacking the government. My life would probably be a bore to a man of your nature and feelings. However for me it is enjoyable, with rewards of raising children and feeling contribution in my work. This happiness is the result of responsibilities, worries, problems, solutions and reactions to people and situations on a day to day basis. There is little time left for solutions to large scale problems outside my little world of family and business. Any contribution to world and national problems is done thru my vote and letter like this.

My recommendation to you is to accept your responsibility of running the House - it is an excellent cause. But don't use your cause as a wedge to change the world. Don't use the House newsletter to attack a government or any other item which is a whim of the edi-

\*This letter is directed to Ed Sams, who wrote the article, "The Census" in the last newsletter.

tor(s) of the newsletter. Don't mix up your day to day responsibilities with nationalism, racism and fascism because when you do the newsletter reeks of chronic frustration.

You mentioned dictatorship. How wrong you are. Your frustrations are the result of bureaucracy and a very large democratic institution which because of its size and diversified opinions is extremely slow in change. A dictatorship is swift in change because its direction is completely controlled by a chosen few or possibly only 1 individual. This newsletter is more dictatorial than our government could ever be.

Recognize that a large government is very slow in change but its direction is always the result of the majority opinion. (If the people contribute and react as they should). The slow change is a cause of great frustration if your address your life to speeding it up as opposed to addressing your life to problems which you recognize are beyond your governments reach.

Don't run in the vanguard of humanitarianism and become bitter because the main element is miles behind and has no hope of catching you. Your choice to be in the advanced element must be made in the knowledge that you stand alone.

Don't curse the others for not having your speed - instead praise them for letting people of your nature go ahead.

Paul Hanbury

## WEEK BY WEEK

Thankfully the long, dry summer (if our donations are any gauge) is over. In July a reprieve came in the guise of a pool party hosted by the Weiders. Most of our friends from Westwood were there, and many who couldn't be there helped out on their own as best they could. But the real relief came in a \$5,000 check from the National Walk for Hunger Foundation - a result of last Spring's 25-mile walk by hundreds of teenagers. This was unquestionably the largest single contribution the House has received, and as such created a strange sensation in those of us who have lived through many "1st of the months" with no money in the bank. At last we were able to give Ed Hennessy the go ahead on installing a new toilet; buying lumber for storm windows and a new staircase, along with a few long-overdue tools, and of course, we could now plan on resuming two meals a day.

The other important happening of the summer was the last issue of the newsletter. It seems that both the article concerning the census and Dick Trudeau's reflections on patriotism caused problems with some people. We received two or three letters expressing this, which we have included elsewhere in this newsletter. And in response to suggestions from others, we had a meeting of the board of directors where their concerns were aired and a review of the newsletter's purpose was conducted. Basically, the newsletter has been viewed by those at the House as a chance to share what is happening here to those people who are interested. Although

the bulk of this deals directly with the men, financial crises, and news of people's comings and goings, we have felt that the ideas, feelings, beliefs, etc. of ours (or yours) were also an important part of this sharing. Not that what we may print is an attempt to convince anyone of anything, nor necessarily even accepted by all who live here - but rather that what happens in our minds and any things we may feel strongly about are as real a part of Haley House as what we serve for Thanksgiving dinner.

A special significance was attached to Thanksgiving this year as we witnessed Jim and Yvonne's marriage. Robert Case, O.S.B. led the ceremony at Warwick House while about a hundred of their friends commenced the celebration here immediately after. Jim is finishing up his degree at Suffolk University and working in the bookstore while Yvonne is busy working full-time as a telephone operator. Among their other responsibilities at the House, the Barry's make our Saturday night run to Haymarket, which is sponsored by Bob Kennedy.

Thanksgiving dinner was especially enjoyable this year because Pine Street was open and served a fine meal for about two hundred men. This meant that there wasn't quite as long a line at 6:15 A.M. As our fifty men were finishing, all of us (Troy, Jason and Tamara included) finished the last round of turkey, stuffing, etc.

Word of Ken's cooking has spread. Recently a fellow came to the kitchen door with the request that Ken cook his three pounds of hamburger. Dick is still persevering at his twice daily stint in the clothing room. No

matter how many strange requests he receives, Dick always seems to find something to fit the need. If anyone notices Ed smiling more often these days, it is probably due more to his new set of teeth than the Christmas spirit. All the while Charlie receives the puns that are the occupational hazards of all grave diggers.

We are now back to serving our second meal, consisting of soup and crackers or bread. The Knights of Columbus in the Framingham area helped make this possible with a large supply of giant cans. Some personal touches that make this meal more than just filling and nourishing are treats like Mrs. Nangeroni's fudge, Mrs. O'Brien's apple pie, and homemade bread baked by a young man in Bob Kennedy's parish.

Waiting for Christmas this year includes a certain apprehension regarding the weather. Already Pine Street has been filled almost every night. Hopefully as life in the city becomes more unbearable especially for the older men, some will leave for Tewksbury or Long Island Hospitals until the Spring thaw. As it stands now, our men often wait in line almost two hours for a lodging ticket. The winter always seems to claim at least a few street men of the South End.

Kathy McKenna

#### ANOTHER RESPONSE TO THE NEWSLETTER

47 Crystal Hill Terrace  
Westwood, Massachusetts  
July 23, 1970

Dear Haley House,

For the past several years I have been not only a supporter of Haley House but also an admirer of your own personal dedication to helping people who desperately need it. I have, however, over the past few months become increasingly concerned over the comments you have been making in the newsletter.

Whether you intend it or not, and I suspect that you do, you have created the impression that you are very embittered with the political and economic society of this country. You constantly speak of oppression as though it is an official policy of the government, you deride federal law enforcement officers who inquire as to the whereabouts of a person who has willfully violated the laws of the land, you regard the census as some nefarious government scheme to encroach upon your personal freedoms and you use expressions such as "the state" and "fascist" which have their origins in Marxist revolutionary doctrine.

I for one am sick to death of callow, inexperienced do-gooders (I use the term in an uncomplimentary sense) who lack either the ability or the will to see and appreciate the great strides which have been made in this country in the area of social responsib-

ility in just a few short years. The United States has achieved the greatest distribution of wealth that the world has ever seen or is ever likely to see and it has done this through both an outstanding system of capitalism and a method of government which has zealously guarded the personal freedoms necessary for it. We have the largest, best educated middle class in the world and this is the ultimate proof of what I say since this middle class is a relatively recent thing.

In the area of human rights we have debated our weaknesses before the entire world and the catalogue of positive action which has resulted and will continue to result is a matter of record for those who care to acknowledge it. It is all too easy for people to forget or disregard these positive achievements and I feel that is what you are doing.

Ed Sams took great delight in cataloguing his conversation with a census taker and justified his refusal to abide by a law passed by his representatives in congress by claiming that it is irrelevant. I doubt that anyone is unaware that the housing needs of the nation are critical especially for the poor. But I ask Mr. Sams how, if he were in authority, he would obtain the basic raw data needed to determine the extent of the problem is to identify it, determine its size and scope. Otherwise it is impossible to muster adequate forces to attack it. On this basis I believe the census is indeed relevant and Mr Sams judgement was immature at best.

His diatribe against the government on the

grounds that it is fascist is too blunt to be described as sophistry. Rather it is completely unfounded in fact and devoid of moral content. It is quite easy for Mr. Sams to bandy about words whose definition he may know but which represent ways of life he is incapable of comprehending. Were he to live under a form of government which in fact was fascist he would not today be living in our midst and freely publicizing his doctrine of hatred.

I simply cannot subscribe to the positions you have taken. By advocating non-compliance with those laws of the land with which you disagree you are in effect advocating anarchy and should you have any illusions about the anarchist movement in history and its results just look at European internal affairs in the period from 1890 to 1910. The laws of this country are made by the people through their elected representatives and the same is true of both its domestic and foreign policy. If you disagree with them you should work through the system to get them changed but to support and encourage defiance of them is, in my view, the height of social irresponsibility.

Whatever your political views, however, the Haley House newsletter is not the place to espouse them whether they support or criticize government or social programs. By doing so you will, in the long run, do great harm to those whom you seek to help. I sincerely hope this does not happen.

James F. McGill

cc: Reverend Robert Kennedy  
Mrs. Frederick Meagher

CHRIST CLIMBED DOWN

by

Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Christ climbed down  
from His bare Tree  
this year  
and ran away to where  
there were no rootless Christmas trees  
hung with candycanes and breakable stars

Christ climbed down  
from His bare Tree  
this year  
and ran away to where  
there were no gilded Christmas trees  
and no tinsel Christmas trees  
and no tinfoil Christmas trees  
and no pink plastic Christmas trees  
and no gold Christmas trees  
and no black Christmas trees  
and no powderblue Christmas trees  
hung with electric candles  
and encircled by tin electric trains  
and clever cornball relatives

Christ climbed down  
from His bare Tree  
this year  
and ran away to where  
no intrepid Bible salesmen  
covered the territory  
in two-tone cadillacs  
and where no Sears Roebuck creches  
complete with plastic babe in manger  
arrived by parcel post  
the babe by special delivery  
and where no televised Wise Men  
praised the Lord Calvert Whiskey

Christ climbed down  
from His bare Tree  
this year  
and ran away to where  
no fat handshaking stranger  
in a red flannel suit  
and a fake white beard  
went around passing himself off  
as some sort of North Pole saint  
crossing the desert to Bethlehem  
Pennsylvania  
in a Volkswagon sled  
drawn by rollicking Adirondack reindeer  
with German names  
and bearing sacks of Humble Gifts  
from Saks Fifth Avenue  
for everybody's imagined Christ child

Christ climbed down  
from His bare Tree  
this year  
and ran away to where  
no Bing Crosby carollers  
groaned of a tight Christmas  
and where no Radio City angels  
iceskated wingless  
thru a winter wonderland  
into a jinglebell heaven  
daily at 8:30  
with Midnight Mass matinees

Christ climbed down  
from His bare Tree  
this year  
and softly stole away into  
some anonymous Mary's womb again  
where in the darkest night  
of everybody's anonymous soul  
He awaits again  
an unimaginable  
and impossibly  
Immaculate Reconciliation  
the very craziest  
of Second Comings

The preceding poem by Ferlinghetti aptly expresses our feelings as Christmas again approaches. We buy our loved-ones cheap but expensive gifts. God becomes Santa Claus. Santa's little helpers become real. At \$1.85/hr. We become the Wise Men, our gifts costing more than we'll ever know. We buy our kids enough "toy" weapons to equip an army; we insist on law and order. End the murder in Vietnam - Kill the pigs. Demand action against violence and crime at home - Victory in Vietnam. Believe that Agnew is dividing the country - Chuckle at cartoons ridiculing the man's credentials as a human being. Condemn all form of prejudice - Know that all politicians are crooked.

A Christmas card reads "Two thousand years have passed yet we still have His message between us." It's no wonder. We continue "living most of our lives as if no one were being burned, no famines being suffered, as if working at change were a kind of hobby, a way of keeping the conscience polished, perhaps even a fashionable way to use up spare time."

We are called to do the impossible by a "Man" we worship as God who was once said to be the Prince of Peace.

Peace-

Ed Sams

## YEATS :

Surely some revelation is at hand;  
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.  
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out  
When a vast image out of *Spiritus Mundi*  
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert  
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,  
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,  
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it  
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.  
The darkness drops again; but now I know  
That twenty centuries of stony sleep  
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,  
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,  
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

1920

Come let us mock at the great  
That had such burdens on the mind  
And toiled so hard and late  
To leave some monument behind,  
Nor thought of the levelling wind.

Come let us mock at the wise;  
With all those calendars whereon  
They fixed old aching eyes,  
They never saw how seasons run,  
And now but gape at the sun.

Come let us mock at the good  
That fancied goodness might be gay,  
And sick of solitude  
Might proclaim a holiday:  
Wind shrieked—and where are they?

Mock mockers after that  
That would not lift a hand maybe  
To help good, wise or great  
To bar that foul storm out, for we  
Traffic in mockery.

1921

## THE GREAT DAY

HURRAH for revolution and more cannon-shot!  
A beggar upon horseback lashes a beggar on foot.  
Hurrah for revolution and cannon come again!  
The beggars have changed places, but the lash goes on.

1938

## PARNELL

PARNELL came down the road, he said to a cheering man:  
'Ireland shall get her freedom and you still break stone.'

1938