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CANDIS

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Notes and Notices

Candis is the official organ of the Harlow CND and is published by Liam Maguire, 91 Ladyshot, Harlow, Essex.

All correspondence relating to Candis should be sent to the above address. Letters are welcomed but contributors are asked to keep their letters brief and to the point.

Candis Editor: Liam Maguire. Cover and Cartoons: Dave Larkin

Candis Back Numbers: After our appeal for early numbers of Candis, Miss Fudge, our printer, very kindly gave us some back numbers that she had in stock. We are still short of some early numbers, particularly the first year. On the other hand we can supply interested people with back numbers for the last two years; though we must add that August 1965 is completely out of print, and that the March 65 (Education) issue and April 65 (The Nailmakers, poem) are in very short supply.

UNITED ACTION. An attempt is being made to establish a London office to co-ordinate international protest against the Vietnam War. The sponsors are the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace. Behind the venture is Dave McReynolds, representing the American Peace Movement, Mrs. Peggy Duff, Sec., CND, Gerry Hunnius, secretary of the above confederation and Prof. John Swomley, affiliated member of the confederation.

The office is organising protests on American Independence Day July 4th.

Sick War. American casualties in Vietnam are mounting. For the year 1965 US troops had 18,383 cases of venereal, 8,866 cases of digestive, and 7,974 cases of acute respiratory disease, 3,421 cases of 'jungle fever' and 1,801 cases of malaria.

Harlow CND meet every third monday of each month at Moot House, the Stow, Harlow at 8 o/c p.m. Secretary Keith Nathan, 12 Shawbridge, Harlow. Treasurer Mrs. C. Overy, 126 Pennymead, Harlow. Youth CND Sec. Paul Coltman, 44 Ladyshot, Harlow.

"Both literally and figuratively Saigon has become an American brothel" Senator Fulbright on May 5th.

MEANWHILE - MEANWHILE - MEANWHILE - MEANWHILE - MEANWHILE

BRITAIN. More than 5,700 women in Britain develop cervical cancer each year and there are about 2,500 deaths per year. The cancer can be prevented if a simple cervical smear test is taken. Last month the pathological laboratory of the Farnham group of hospitals in Surrey announced that they could no longer test smears taken by family doctors because there are not sufficient funds to pay the £800 or so for an extra junior laboratory technician. In future they will only be able to test smears from women that they are really worried about. All others will have to be turned away.

The Minister of Defence is worried about the high number of Civil Servants required to administrate the armed forces. There are 23,400 'central administrators' required to run a force of 421,000. The pattern of costs is 1964/65 - £25,970,000; 1965/6 £28,460,000; 1966/7 £29,440,000. The Ministry of Defence Operational Analysis Establishment at Byfleet have concluded another war game. The results of this game have shown that the use of tactical nuclear weapons in a European war would so damage military communications that defence would become meaningless. There would also be very high civilian casualties; approx. one and half million dead in an area of 10,000 square miles containing no large towns, assuming the use of between 500 and 1,000 tactical nuclear weapons.

FRANCE. French scientists state that they are taking precautions so that their forthcoming nuclear tests on the Mururoa islands will be exploded into a steady west wind that is expected to blow for several days. If the wind changes to the north or south several inhabited islands will come into the fall-out path. The scientists expect to use the island of Mururoa for atomic explosions for the next six to eight years. Ultimately they hope to let off a hydrogen bomb there.

INDIA. In the state of Orissa people were reported to be eating the leaves and barks of trees. An opposition member of the Indian Parliament displayed photographs which he said showed mothers selling their children for one rupee, (1s.6d). Another opposition member said that mothers were in prison for killing their hungry children and that he knew of a man that had killed his wife and three children rather than see them starve.

4.

KINGHILL AGAIN.

Last month we drew readers attention to the booklet on the struggle of the homeless who are resident in the 'rest home' run by the Kent County Council, "K.C.C. Versus the Homeless" published by Heather Russell, 53a Westmoreland Rd., Bromley, Kent, (1/6 plus postage). Readers may remember that one of the rules of this hostel is that husbands and wives were separated and husbands forbidden to be at the hostel. The residents fought this dictate in court and by illegally entering the hostel. Some husbands were sent to jail for actually sleeping with their wives. (Yes, this happened in England in the 60's, not some outlandish foreign place). The Kent homeless have now received another bitter blow. In the High Court of Justice, before Mr. Justice Browne judgment was given against Mrs. Joan Spencer Daniels, of Kinghill Hostel, West Malling, for possession of her room at the hostel. Possession was given to the K.C.C. within four weeks and they were also awarded £39.7.6d for damages for tresspass. The K.C.C. were also granted injunction to prevent Mrs. Daniels from returning to the Hostel. As a footnote, an article in the Observer pointed out that Kent C.C. have the highest number for family breakups for 18 counties; 245 children taken into care last year, the West Riding was second with 147. Surrey and Essex had 68 between them.

Sweets to the sweet. - "It's nice here, having the feeling of great long galleries. You can hear them coming along, singing and laughing as they work. Do you know, we made 156 tons of jam last year?" So said Mrs. Kelley, Governor of Holloway prison for women in the Sunday Times. 1/5/66

Cutting the cost. As any gangster will tell you, uniformed or otherwise, 60% of the cost of killing anybody with a bullet goes in the spent cartridge. A new invention, called 'The Daisy V/L Caseless Ammo Rifle looks like making slaughter a lot cheaper. The rifle has no hammer or firing pin and the bullet has no cartridge. When the trigger is pressed a jet of hot compressed air ignites the bullet's propellent and enough pressure is created for velocity of up to 1,150 feet a second. A killer can fire up to 20 bullets without loading - and 50,000 without cleaning the barrel.

CHILDREN IN POVERTY. Part two.

The following article was received by Jose Maguire as a letter commenting on her article in February Candis on Children in Poverty. With the writer's permission we are re-producing the letter here. It is, of course, edited to present the anonymity of the writer and some of the cases mentioned.

Dear Jose,

I see that you are biting into a problem that has concerned me for the last few years. The problems that you face with your backward class are common ones.

A welfare worker I know tells me that she is bogged down with the chronic cases, widows, deserted mums, etc., and that there are still families where children are neglected and escaping authorities and no one can help them.

One of the things, of course, is lack of care from teachers - not enough teachers shout loudly enough about smelly neglected children, - it's enough to teach them, long division.

The other is 'don't-care-officialdom': Quote cases, 1) in Harlow, a girl abnormally fat aged 10 going to a medical. The teacher puts in a note drawing the doctor's attention to fatness. Now whether the child needed medical treatment or a diet I don't know, that's a doctor's business but she needed one or the other. Anyway the teacher's note querying the girl's fatness was returned and the doctor had written 'obesity' on it. We knew that in the first place. The girl's mother should at least been given a diet sheet. Advertisers are always sending them to doctors free! The other is a girl (London) who never spoke and in the playground stood in a corner hiding her face behind her dirty hair. She was completely withdrawn. Doctor's comment - "Girl is lazy". One cannot go over the doctor's head. After all, if the parents were co-operative the matter would probably have gone through the family doctor a long time ago.

The other problem I've found is trying to find appropriate bodies to deal with the problems e.g., a child who is not adequately fed or clothed, but is not starved or ill-clothed enough to warrant Children's Committee or S.P.C.C.

For example: Child at school, 5 years old, sister 7, seven pints of milk a week for the whole family. Child sent to school without breakfast. I took her home and came back

later. She had eaten breakfast - a slice of bread and jam and a cup of water. Smacked for bedwetting. Cotton dresses in winter. The mother was brought up in a Children's Home and according to someone who knows local affairs better than I, the mother 'does her best'. Sometimes one wishes the children could be brutally ill-treated just once to give entry to the home!

The other trouble is lack of education, etc., the dull backward mum who can't cook, can only open tins and buy expensive fish and chips. Another thing is that forms are so damnably difficult to understand. I doubt if I could fill in one myself.

After I had boys come to school in wellingtons and no socks I spoke to some of my nice mums who bring in passed on clothes. They usually say "I hope it goes to a deserving family" and I say "children of undeserving families feel the cold as much as children of deserving families". Actually the 'undeserving' families neglect their children just a bit more. Its typical of these ones that the children's allowance goes on cigarettes. One lot I know have a fairish income, plan to go to Spain on their holidays but the children have no shoes. Another family bought a new expensive telly while the children came to school in gym shoes. I'm not sneering; it happens, its understandable, its sad.

One of the things I used to dread the most was the wet mornings. The children would get soaked coming to school and you spent up to eleven o'clock borrowing coats for them to sit in while you dried shirts over the radiators and sent jeans down to the domestic science department to be put in the driers. I never solved the problem of what to do with those who had not only wet dresses and shirts but wet knickers and underpants.

Anyway it's time someone started on the children. -- When I was at my school I used to help them mend their clothes and polish their shoes etc., but we need more than private soup kitchens. There seem to be plenty of people who leap up to defend or attack a play in which a baby gets battered in a pram but this doesn't help the real babies who lie covered in nappy rash or the little smellies in school, none of whom are badly treated enough to call in outside authorities. If we can get thousands of people joining societies either to prevent or enable Mr. Tynan to swear on television surely some one, somewhere, is bothered enough.

A SHELTERED LIFE.By Klaus Wich.

Avid readers of Science Fiction will be aware that one of the obsessive themes is in this form of literature of the last few years, is the underground human existence of the future. With variations, the form of life as imagined by the S.F. writers will consist of all humanity living in deep tunnelled cities. Life on the surface of the earth will be extinct or in some cases, only inhabited by outcasts from the underground cities. The main variation on this theme is how this form of existence has arrived. It is either the outcome of a nuclear war in which the surface of the earth becomes soaked with radio-active fall-out and only those people in deep shelters survive; or it is the gradual growth of underground life developed in fear of a nuclear war.

Actual life has a nasty habit of catching up with the fantasy writers. H.G. Wells and Jules Verne dreamt up aerial bombardment, tanks, submarines, gas war, rockets and nuclear power long before these things ever were created to afflict man. So it is with the underground cities of the future.

Most of us know about the deep underground bunkers built, or being built, in Britain to house the Regional Seats of Government, the most famous one being RSG-6 at Warren Row, Wargrave, Berks. (Wargrave is not an elaborate pun, it is the actual name of a place). Our own one, RSG-4 used to be housed in Cambridge but it is now rumoured to be at Dunmow.

What most of us are not aware of is the extent to which Governments have studied the problem of containing a substantial proportion of the civilian population in underground shelters for a long time. Scientists psychologists and sociologists are pouring over information obtained during the mass bombing raids of World War II, particularly from Germany. Studies are being made of underground workers, like miners, and of people forced to live in confined spaces, like prisoners.

Direct data is obtained from confining volunteers for a specific period in a simulated fall-out shelter. The results obtained have been various and mainly conditioned on the expected time of confinement, the age of the volunteers, and the composition of the group.

The main criticisms levelled at these experiments were that they were unrealistic. The volunteers knew that there was a time limit to their imprisonment, (in a war no one would know when they could get out.) The volunteers knew that when they emerged the world would be more or less the same as when they went in; which would obviously not be the case in a war, there were no young children among the group, and the shelters had only a small proportion of the number that would be expected in a war.

When the experimental group was small, the volunteers tended to have hallucinations and fears. Three women spent 48 hours in a small 'fall-out' room in York in March last year. This was a Civil Defence exercise to test the design and facilities of a fall-out room and to show the public how to cope with the problems of living in such a room. After 36 hours the women had bad dreams and were cold miserable and lethargic. One woman felt that things were brushing against her, another thought she was being watched, whilst the third imagined that the sandbags were falling on her. This was only after 36 hours and in conditions where there was no extra stress or anxiety created by events outside. The least time that people would be expected to stay in fall-out rooms during an actual nuclear war is seven days. On the basis of the above experiment small groups in fall-out shelters would be insane at the end of the seven days.

Larger and more full scale experiments have been carried out in Germany. The Germans are going into the whole preparation for a nuclear war with the same thoroughness as they went into previous wars. From July this year all new houses must have an air-raid shelter of cement and steel, with walls and ceilings no less than one foot thick. As from the 1st of January this year every household must have 14 days iron rations.

Last August 144 people spent six days in a nuclear shelter in Dortmund. Once again the experiment was criticised because of the unreality of the situation. The volunteers were paid an allowance of £4.9s. a day and told that it would be necessary to pack the shelter with 1,500 people to really test effects of mass incarceration. Nevertheless the experiment did give some idea of the effects of this form of existence on the mental health of confinement of a group.

The people were roughly divided into three groups; 48 men and women aged between 50 and 67, 48 girls between 16 and 21 and the rest journalists and observers. The young girls were unable to settle down, became nervous, some verging on hysteria while bitter quarrels and petty spitefulness dominated their lives during the latter half of their time.

The men in the older group deteriorated rather quickly. They were ill at ease and worried and kept asking for instructions. The older women and the girls showed a wish for exercise and wanted to do physical work but the men whiled their time away playing cards. Only the older women tried to form any organisation and showed no need for leadership. Of course the older people had had war experience, the women in particular having air-raid shelter experience. The men's attitude was a throw-back to their military days, when one did nothing without instructions.

An earlier Swedish experiment on similar lines had a younger and more mixed group, this time including young men. The young people had greater freedom and were allowed to have equipment for games entertainment and education. Initially the whole thing was a bit of a lark but gradually the atmosphere became tense. Quarrelling broke out, there were several fights among the young men and the group broke up into feuding small groups. Those that had tried to utilise their time to catch up with their studies or just to read became bored and eventually regarded the mere act of reading with disgust. They sat around in complete apathy.

Another factor found in these experiments was that people tend to eat up their rations in a short time. In another experiment in Germany where forty men and forty women stayed in a shelter for 13 days last October, the food was given a nasty taste. This was so unpleasant that the women lost an average of 6lbs in weight.

No specific conclusions on how to adapt civilians to long periods of confinement during a nuclear war, have been drawn from these experiments. As already stated, these experiments are unreal because they do not take into account the effects of overcrowding, anxiety about what is happening outside, and they do have a time limit. Some general results have been drawn from these results combined with studies made of underground workers and long term prisoners.

The smaller the space of confinement the quicker people tend to have hallucinations and unfounded fears eventually leading into madness. Only very rare people, and these usually have strong religious or political convictions, can maintain their sanity. On the other hand, some people's mental faculties decay and they actually become afraid or unable to leave their place of confinement. This has been found among long term prisoners and people who have been a long time in hospitals and other forms of institutes.

Where the space is larger and there is a bigger and more mixed group, there is a mixture of boredom, lassitude and hatred. Interest in existence drops to almost zero, human relationships deteriorates and the only stimulant is personal hatred and dislike of other people. Over a long period of time this would lead to murder and group hysteria. The only way to lessen this problem is to turn the groups frustration and hatred outwards towards an external enemy, either real or imaginary.

The surprising factor in these experiments (except where the groups and the space is small) is that women were able to hold out longer than men. One is not quite sure what this proves. Perhaps the Science Fiction writers will have to revise their vision of the future rabbit-warren life of humanity. The men will have degenerated into zombies and the women will be the complete rulers. It is even probable that the male sex would be eliminated altogether. This is not so fantastic as one may think. A dr. Sherman, of the University of Arkansas, has been able to store human sperm cells in liquid nitrogen at a temperature of minus 196C for several months. He suggests that this could be a possible way to avoid the catastrophe of the genetic effects of a nuclear war.

Needless to say, we can think of other ways to avoid the genetic effects of a nuclear war, like for instance not having a nuclear war. To conclude, no country, no matter how advanced their shelter programme is, will be able to accommodate all the people of that country in fall-out shelters. It should be obvious then, that one of the objects of these experiments is to determine what sections of the populations will be selected to people the shelters and will not only survive but be actually sane when they emerge from their warrens. It won't be a matter of "call-up" papers so much as "call-down" papers when the time arrives.

LettersCANDIS and THE ELECTIONS

With reference to your 'reply' to my letter I wish to make the following points because you have failed to answer the main items concerned.

First, I made it quite clear that I was 'saddened and surprised' not "annoyed" as you choose to think.

Secondly, the fact that you chose to publicly announce support for the Labour Party candidate after voting at a CND meeting in support of the 'voter's veto' means as I said, an about face in viewpoint.

Thirdly, of course I worked for the Independent Labour Party at Leyton because they are anti-war, and anti-bomb, the Labour Party is not and will not be. If I had not I would have supported either Pat Arrowsmith at Fulham or Ronald Mallone at Woolwich. I would not work for Stan Newens because he fails to vote against defence estimates and against the war in Vietnam and finally against the Governments racial policy. He is also in favour of the use of force in Rhodesia.

Fourth and last, I think, I think your smothering of CND's resolution was an act of political bias made worse by publicising your own viewpoint.

Bob Hardy, Harlow.

Criticism and non-criticism.

I don't see why you should apologise for Candis coming out late etc., as you did last month. The Harlow group should consider themselves very lucky to have a magazine at all. It is easy for many of them to sit at home and grouse about Candis being this that and the other thing but if they put half the work that goes into Candis into carrying out their supposed beliefs we might be a little nearer to a world without fear. I don't mean Candis should not be criticised from time to time. Personally I feel that it becomes a little too intellectual at times. Articles like the Education issue, the one on child poverty etc., mean something to ordinary people. We should have more of them in Candis.

One last point; some of the more vocal grouzers are the type that make sure they give sixpence and only sixpence when Candis is brought to their doors.

V. Ryan, Harlow.

12.

OPEN LETTER TO A PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Harold Wilson,
10 Downing Street,
London.

from A Citizen of Harlow,
C/o Candis,
Harlow.

Dear Harold,

I would like you to know that nearly all of us love you and that we are lost in our admiration for your tireless efforts to once more place the name of Britain in the same proud position that it held in the 19th century. We know that you have many trials and tribulations to face in the coming years, being a Prime Minister is no easy job, but we also know that you will face your task with true Yorkshire courage and an increased majority, convinced of the rigid loyalty and subservience of both the Left and Right of your Party. You have the true qualities of a leader, undeterred by any piffling talk of 'conscience' cries of 'broken promises' or out-dated slogans like 'put humanity first'. Your ability to do two opposite things at the same time is such a rare feat of agility that I doubt if it could be equalled in any field, even that of a circus contortionist. For instance, you have a Minister of Disarmament, a man appointed by you and paid for by the taxpayers, whose task is try and help reduce, if not to stop, the ever increasing stock of weapons of human destruction. At the same time you have appointed an "Arms Salesman" whose task will be to sell British-made weapons of human destruction to who so ever wishes to buy them. (At a competitive price and on a commercial basis of course). In one fell swoop you have made a contribution to the future of humanity, and on the other hand helped to stabilise and expand one of Britain's oldest industries.

We are not alone in our admiration for you. Mr. McNamara, that nice US Defence Secretary said recently, "that no Government in the world has given the United States more support in the Vietnam situation than Britain". His praises for you were unstinted; he said "And the Prime Minister Harold Wilson personally has given strong support", His word must have made you feel very proud, Harold. Who knows, but for your "strong personal support" the Vietnamese war may now be in the process of being settled over a conference table? One can see that you are not prepared to slavishly copy one of your Tory predecessors. Anthony Eden, when he was the Tory Foreign Secretary was responsible for treating the Geneva Conference that brought a temporary peace to that unhappy land. But more of that later.

After 13 years of Tory mis-rule, the people were obviously correct to give your party the chance to emulate the Tories. But 13 years of mis-rule have left some nasty boiling points. Rhodesia and Mr. Smith for example. Mr. Smith is a hick politician compared to you. Your handling of the whole situation is masterly. Another politician would have rushed in to crush Smith and Co. with arms without realising the difference between rebels that are white and rebels that are black. And your restriction on the entry of blacks, sorry; immigrants, into Britain was a stroke of genius. The Tories would never had had the nerve to do such a thing. The whole Labour movement would have been roused against their Fascist - type legislation but your Act was true Socialist fore-sight.

Coming back to the vexed question of the War in Vietnam. Both you and your mate, Mike Stewart are wise and experienced politicians and you must know what you are doing. The trouble is we don't know and we are very worried. You see, when Mr. Mcnamara said all those nice things about your strong personal support for the American war in Vietnam he also implied that the people of Britain supported that war. Well, a hell of a lot of people in Britain do not support the war. He made the same mistake as another of your predecessors (Lord Home) made when he said that "the people of Britain were prepared to be blown to kingdom come for the freedom of Berlin". It took the police over twelve hours to clear Trafalgar Square of people who thought differently.

Apparently, many people in America don't support the war either. There has been marches, sit-downs, near riots, young men have gone to jail rather than fight and some people have even burnt themselves to death in public places so great is the feeling. A recent poll showed that 30% of the American people are against the war. But you are not, Harold, you are very much for it.

Of course, television and the newspapers may be blamed for people's attitude towards the war. The other night we saw a picture of a Vietnam peasant on television. His back was a mass of burning nalpalm jelly and he ran like a flaming human torch until he dropped.

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The newspapers keep on publishing pictures of anguished Vietnamese mothers holding their screaming babies. The babies are also burned with napalm. And then there are those pictures of suspects being interrogated; a man being dragged behind a tank, another having his head held under water and finally the beaten suspect being shot in a ditch. There were also pictures of women suspects being maltreated. People in Britain are funny, they have lost any enthusiasm for burning children. But you haven't, Harold, that's why you are Prime Minister.

Maybe we are confused about the real reason for this war. We have been told that the communists are trying to over-run the country and that the Americans are there to assure that the Vietnamese could have a freely elected Government. At the time of the Geneva Treaty, Eisenhower said that if there was an election 80% of the Vietnamese would have vote communist. Instead the South got Bao Dao. The people had had this character before. He was a puppet of the Japanese when the Japanese were the enemy. Then he was imposed by the French when the Japanese were kicked out, then he was imposed by the Americans when the French were kicked out. After a while he was kicked out and Diem was imposed by the military. But Diem was so unpopular that Saigon was brought to a standstill with riots and Buddhist monks burning themselves with petrol. Eventually Diem departed with a bullet in his head. Now the people have Ky.

Prime Minister Ky does not know you as well as we do because Ky said that his only hero was Adolf Hitler. Ky is not very popular either. At the present moment the 1st division of the South Vietnamese army refuse to take orders from him and have gone over to the 'Peoples Revolutionary Committee' a Buddhist controlled body and several cities are closed to Ky's forces. Elections have been promised, next year or the year after, but no communist, moderate or neutralist candidate will be allowed to stand.

Senator Fulbright and Robert Kennedy, to name two, thousands of American professors, students, clergy and ordinary people are against the Vietnamese war. There have been demonstrations in every country in the world against this war. Very soon there will only be a few people actually for the war. We would hate to think that a popular Prime Minister like you should be numbered among the few. After all you are a Socialist and

Socialists believe in Peace and the Brotherhood of Man, irrespective of race, colour or creed.

You must have some very good reasons for your strong personal support for this war. Possibly they are good reasons for a Prime Minister of a country that is up to its eyes in debt to America, that sells poison gas for this war (I know that its not supposed to kill but there was that accident and a soldier died from the gas), that's selling Hovercraft for the war etc. etc. But I'm damned if I can see how a Socialist and a humanitarian can give his strong personal support for this slaughter. Or am I being innocent?

Give my love to Mike Stewart and the rest of the boys, Mary your wife and Elisabeth your Queen.

Yours sincerely,
A Citizen of Harlow.

VIGIL. On Friday and Saturday July 22nd and 23rd (provisionally) Junction of Broadwalk and High St. Organised by the Youth CND Vigil organiser, Dave White, (69 The Downs, Harlow.

The Youth CND have issued the following statement:-
Britain must lead: On the vigil we shall be collecting for one of the International Aid Organisations (Oxfam etc.) but we would like to remind our supporters and friends that working for peace 365 days of the year involves expenditure.

The struggle to raise the hopes and Standards of the world is interlocked with our attempt to cut arms expenditure (nearly £50,000 millions in the world).

If you want to help, or need help to carry on the work you want to do for peace, contact Harlow CND and for school supporters the Harlow Youth CND. (Addresses inside cover).

There's a porpoise behind us. Naval research scientist at China Lake, California have taught these friendly mammals a new trick. The porpoises have been trained to smell the difference between copper and aluminium. The idea is to load the porpoises with high explosives and thus ram enemy submarines. A special patch of metal on friendly submarines would help the porpoises to identify their own side. It was not stated whether the porpoises were volunteers.

HARLOW CND

CANDIS

Peter Simple in the Daily Telegraph suggests that British M.Ps. with allegiance to Russia or China should wear the uniform of that country. He said we may have a few surprises. We would suggest that if all M.Ps. wore the uniform of their real allegiance and mental outlook we may have more surprises. Or would we?

