

Faculty Focus

by PHIL SCRIBNER

Centennial College and Dept. of Philosophy
Not many realize it yet, but a new and outrageous casualty of the war in Vietnam must be recorded: The death of the national commitment to civil rights.

A few years ago the horror of the Vietnam war was only beginning to sink in. Most humanist politicians had been preoccupied with the methods of programs for achieving equality of opportunity and political rights for all our citizens.

We debated the effectiveness of legislation as compared to economic means. But in that debate we were certain of our commitment and secretly proud of the little progress which had been made.

We knew, of course, that there were enormous obstacles and major setbacks in the future. But we rested comfortably in the absolute certainty that the goals we sought were indelibly inscribed on the national agenda.

WITH THE WAR came the reluctant realization that domestic programs would be postponed for awhile. But the full costs of the war, of LBJ's political demise and of Nixon's eager pallbearership are only now beginning to be apparent.

The commitment to civil rights, to political and social equality, to equal educational and economic opportunity has been abandoned. The essential commitment in American politics is gone. Some of the moves which have already been made make this clear enough.

—The voting rights act has virtually been repealed by expanding its commission, reducing its powers and cutting its funds.

—The Justice Department has ceased to initiate legal action to realize civil rights and has spent the last seven or eight months seeking court decisions to avoid integration.

—The leaders in the civil rights divisions of both the Justice Department and HEW have been forced to resign.

—Nixon's nominees to the Supreme Court have been far more sympathetic to preserving the remaining vestiges of segregation and discrimination than securing equal rights for all citizens.

—Federal cutbacks to stem inflation have fallen largely on the black and the poor while the Defense Department continues to receive funds for expensive and useless new weapons systems.

—In admittedly ambiguous statements the President has come out against bussing to achieve integration or racial balance.

—The Justice Department has led a campaign to wipe out the Black Panthers as a lesson to other civil rights activists or dissidents.

OF COURSE the President has not yet gone on national television and announced his new policy. But he has embarked on it nevertheless. The effect has been to thwart any further moves for integration and equal rights while deluding the population into believing that such efforts are still going on. Spiro's continual insistence on "quality education," as opposed to equal education, is a code no Southerner can fail to miss.

I need not rehearse the elements of the Southern Strategy for Nixon's reelection. Its outlines are far too clear. At least it is obvious that Nixon is not relying on civil rights liberals, blacks, anti-war activists and the like for his reelection.

I do not mean to imply that our President is a racist or segregationist. He is merely a master of the expedient and the demagogic. He knows that the dispute over the war has so depleted the reservoir of good will and trust among

Americans that the far more difficult course is to continue to lead the country toward racial justice.

IT IS DIFFICULT to discover an appropriate strategy to oppose Nixon's reversal of national goals. Nixon has looked into the soul of this country and read its contents accurately.

He has found that there is an untapped and growing supply of hatred and fear in this country which can be put to his own political advantage. He is not a malicious man on this count. He is merely a clever politician whose own power is more important than the interests of his countrymen.

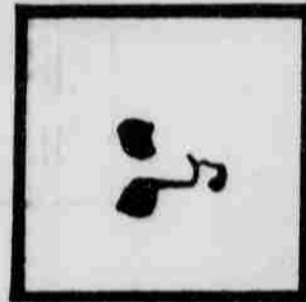
How far and how fast Nixon will go to frustrate the legitimate demands of black Americans is not yet clear. He will almost surely appoint additional members to the Supreme Court — in accordance with the principle that a court, all of whose members believe in civil rights, cannot be balanced and impartial.

Attorney General Mitchell is practicing his techniques of repression on draftable students and anti-war activists as well as blacks. There are surely a few more departments working for civil rights whose budgets can be cut and a few more civil rights laws which can be diluted.

NO SERIOUS opposition should be expected from the Democratic Party. They have remained quiet so far. And as clever politicians, they realize that there are far more popular issues with which to attempt to undercut Nixon's support — the war, inflation, etc. The blacks will again pay the price of America's cowardice.

Only a fool would treat these indications lightly, and only a racist would welcome them. The time may come sooner than we like to decide which side we are on.

EDIT ORIAL



Our Man Hoppe

by Arthur Hoppe

"The South Vietnamese government announced plans to build a Disneyland-type attraction in the Saigon area to attract tourists. The project will be financed by West Germany" — news item.

IT WAS in the 43rd year of our lightning campaign to wipe the dread Viet-Narian guerrillas out of West Vhtnng. Morale in the capital of Sag On was low.

"At the rapid rate America is withdrawing her troops," said Premier Hoo Dat Don Dar morosely, "the last G.I. will be on his way home in only twelve more years. We shall sorely miss them."

"Particularly those of us in the bar and restaurant business," said the Finance Minister, General Nho Diem Ghud. "Without these bottle-scarred, two-fisted drinking men to support us, the whole country will go broke. What will we do?"

"Follow me," said General Pak Opp Ngo, a born leader.

"Wait, cousins!" said the Recreation Director, General Ghet Sa Lot. "Allow me to introduce a foreign consultant, Herr Gottfried von Krumm. He has a plan to save us."

VON KRUMM bowed, clicked his heels and disclosed the solution in a single word: "Disneyland!"

"Another inscrutable Oriental nut," muttered Vice Premier Hoo Dat Opp Dar under his breath. But as von Krumm talked, interest mounted.

"We shall call it 'Auntie Kommie Land,' he said. "Each tourist will pay a handsome fee to a General at the gate — half of which the General will put in the till, and the other half in his pocket.

"Once inside, the tourist will be offered a number of exciting rides. He will pay once for each ride at the beginning. Then, midway through, a Viet-Narian guerrilla in black pajamas will collect again at gunpoint.

"THE FEATURE attraction will be a towering papier-mache mountain, known as 'Cheeseburger Hill.' The tourist will be given the challenge of trying to struggle to the top on foot against innumerable, overwhelming obstacles."

"And if he reaches the top, he gets a prize?" asked General Wyn Na Phieu politely.

"No, he gets carried down on a stretcher," explained von Krumm. "And there are a number of other attractions, like the exciting Tonkin Gulf ride aboard a simulated destroyer."

"What happens on that?" asked General Lu Sa Phieu.

"Nothing," said von Krumm. "But it sets the stage for the Simulated Bombing Runs, complete with Simulated Napalm. The tourist can then visit quaint, authentic Gookland, where he can set fire to a quaint, authentic native hootch with his own cigarette lighter.

"WE WILL ALSO have several intriguing gambling games — such as the Black Market Game, the Buy a Loyal Leader Game and the Win the Hearts and Minds of the People Game. Naturally, the Americans can never win.

"Today Vhtnng, gentlemen," concluded von Krumm with a brisk salute, "tomorrow Anaheim!"

"AN INTERESTING idea," said Premier Hoo dubiously, "but will it work?" "Our studies prove conclusively that such an attraction will draw two million Americans who will spend \$100 billion," said von Krumm confidently.

"On an enterprise where they get nowhere and never win?" said Premier Hoo with surprise. "What did you base your studies on?"

"The last ten years of the war," said von Krumm.

The contract was signed on the spot.

ICE CUBES
50¢

10 lb.

Bag

LOWEST PRICES
IN TOWN
AT
DIVIDEND

16th & P St.
Just South
of Campus



Dividend Bonded Gas
WE NEVER CLOSE