

Post 9/2/66
Letter
Ambassador's Retort

Because of his early training that it is the height of snobbery to avoid use of the personal pronoun in referring to oneself, the Ambassador used the pronoun "I" rather freely in reporting his first-year activities at the U.N. to the President on Monday, Aug. 22. The Ambassador was chagrined, however, to read in Mr. Harwood's amusing column of Aug. 27, recounting the "dreadfully dull" previous Monday at the White House, "that the Ambassador had used the pronoun 'I' 31 times in the space of a single page."

Even for a purist, such as himself, this seemed to the Ambassador to be an excessive use of the personal pronoun. Chagrin turned to puzzlement, however, when in re-reading his report to the President, the Ambassador could only count 13 uses of the pronoun "I" in the entire five-page report. Even this seems, in retrospect, to be too much, and the Ambassador will try to do better next time.

The Ambassador was also puzzled, in light of the subsequent coverage of his White House press conference, about Mr. Harwood's further statement that the Ambassador had "little to report" on the dull Monday in question. The *Washington Post* (was Mr. Harwood the reporter?), The *New York Times* and almost every other newspaper on the following day carried feature stories concerning the Ambassador's statements at the press conference relating to the momentous problem of China's representation and the forthcoming U.N. General Assembly. And there has also been considerable editorializing referring to these statements.

It would seem from all of this that there was indeed, as reported in Mr. Harwood's column, a "sleeper" at the White House. Could it perhaps have been Mr. Harwood?

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