

the President a free hand in the matter, though by a surprisingly tight margin of 44 to 38. Even so, Nasser and his companions around the world undoubtedly got the message. And who knows, having found how great it feels to be alive, Congress might try it again.

## The Case of Larrrie Schmidt

There is a very fascinating young man in Dallas named Larrrie Schmidt. He is especially fascinating for a writer out to do an "exposé" of the Right, and so it was that Patricia Swank discovered him, apparently through the Warren Report, exposed him in the pages of *Look*, and in the process linked Young Americans for Freedom to his fantastic plans.

Larrrie Schmidt's vision was one of such Herculean proportions as to amuse anyone who has toiled in the political vineyards. It was all very simple: he and his friends would take over YAF, then through YAF take over the conservative movement, and through the conservative movement take over the nation. All this was to be accomplished by 1968, through his secret apparatus named Conservatism USA, or CUSA.

This rates a good belly-laugh, most of us would agree. But Miss Swank and *Look* took him seriously enough to devote two pages of that mass-circulation magazine to the danger Larrrie and his friends posed to the nation.

According to Miss Swank, a speech at the home of Dr. Robert Morris (who was unaware of Schmidt's plans or CUSA) "catapulted Schmidt into organizational activity as Southwestern executive-secretary of Young Americans for Freedom. He worked fiercely, raised money, put CUSA activism into YAF. But 'those officers just didn't want to go as fast as I did. I was too advanced.' He turned to other things."

Schmidt entered the Warren Report because of his connection with Bernard Weissman, who placed the now-famous anti-Kennedy advertisement in the November 22, 1963 issue of the *Dallas Morning News*. The facts concerning his relationship with YAF are as follows:

• Larry Schmidt was a member of YAF for a few months in 1963, but has not been a member since that time.

• He was never Southwestern Executive Secretary of YAF. Miss Swank apparently took his word literally, as recorded in a letter in the Warren Report ("I am the executive secretary—the number 3 man in the headquarters.")

• His reasons for picking YAF for infiltration are revealing. "I wanted to start a new movement, a new organization. I had to compromise. Others . . . suggested we use an already existing movement and organization—namely YAF or Young Americans for Freedom, which already has 50,000 members or so" (sic). He mentioned the many Congressmen and other prominent Americans on the National Advisory Board, then added, "YAF has no connection with the radical right element and aims it wherever it can."

• And, as Miss Swank admits, Larrrie Schmidt and YAF didn't mix well. Soon he was off to "other things."

Obviously, a mass-membership organization cannot investigate all applicants for membership. What is important is that it have a membership sound enough in principle to reject a person with the egotistic and simplistic views of a Larrrie Schmidt, and this was the case. Schmidt's associate Bernard Weissman remarked caustically that "the most [YAF] ever accomplished was running around burning baskets from Yugoslavia" (sic). To persons with their grand designs, YAF must indeed seem tame. They don't need us and we certainly don't need them.

## Winston Churchill, RIP

There is little to add to the multitude of well-deserved tributes. Many, probably most, of *THE NEW GUARDIAN*'s readers were too young at the time to recollect his famous World War II speeches. Sir Winston Churchill, who made and wrote history, now *is* history, and the new generations will know him only through their study of history.

There are many lessons to be learned from his life, and John Chamberlain's testimonial focused on one of the most important.

"The wanton, stupid modern world will continue to pursue the current courses that go to make the emergence of another Churchill virtually impossible," wrote Chamberlain, for "the fact is that Winston Churchill broke all the rules that are supposedly necessary to the creation of an effective 20th Century man. He was a bad scholar, and a school dropout—but this only means that he eluded the orthodox ways of testing latent ability.

"He learned to write, as he said, by reading Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* on his own when he was doing his tour of military duty in India, which placed him in the ranks of the autodidacts, or the self-taught. (Such people, as everyone knows today, cannot hope to get jobs with our many institutions that demand not only an A.B. degree but something beyond that.) . . .

"If we were to advise a young man today to take Churchill as his model, we would be counseling him not to worry about university degrees, or keeping a close rein on his tongue when he felt impelled to make a witty remark about a public personage, or speaking out with the truth at impolitic moments, or remaining constant to party or leader, or refraining from cigarettes or brandy.

"But maybe it is the mark of a young Churchill that he will do what he thinks best anyway, no matter what his surrounding culture-creators tell him he should or should not do."

