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Burying the Campaign Trash

LET US UNITE upon this election day in unanimous resolution to designate tomorrow as Trash Day, and to declare that the day shall be devoted to clearing from our minds the worst of what has been said in this campaign, to labeling it as dangerous and to burying it deep below the subconscious.

I think for example of John Ehrlichman's statement about George McGovern: "Where I grew up, the minister's son was always the biggest liar in the class."

Surely, we don't want that one lying around after today. And then there is Robert Haldeman's description of Sen. Edmund Muskie: "Consciously aiding and abetting the enemy." Haldeman may now agree that if we carry this statement out tomorrow and dump it, the country will be better off.

MARTHA MITCHELL is out of the public eye now but it seems to me nevertheless that her remark about Sen. William Fulbright, "He should be crucified," is a candidate for the trash bin, along with her recommendation for the woman exhibitionist who publicly interrupted President Nixon: "She should be torn limb from limb." Mrs. Mitchell

must have had her mind on Roman history, but in any event, both remarks are self-incriminating to one who retired from the field with the complaint that "politics is dirty business."

On the other side, there is Sargent Shriver's opinion that all people who ever worked for the Central Intelligence Agency should be barred from politics. That may seem just silly, but if you stop to think about it, it tars a lot of people who never even thought about breaking and entering. And then there's McGovern's complaint that you have to go back to Hitler to find a parallel for the annihilation of innocent people in Vietnam.

Republicans have said this statement compares Mr. Nixon to Hitler. I don't think it quite does that, but it does suggest that Mr. Nixon wants to kill civilians in Vietnam and by tomorrow McGovern ought to agree that it should go in the trash.

MR. NIXON himself has made two statements which ought to be carried out and buried but space permits only one citation. "Better education," the President said, "is going to come in the schools that are closer to home and not those clear

across town." The insult to everybody's intelligence is as specific as that to one race is implied.

But it seems to me that Spiro Agnew is the greatest offender to the public morality. He urged the other day that draft evaders be punished in such a way as to "stigmatize them publicly." I haven't heard the word "stigmatize" used in a political sense since Hitler required Jewish boys and girls to wear yellow arm bands on their way to and from school. The literary parallel

of course is the famous "A" which Hawthorne's heroine was forced to wear in "The Scarlet Letter." To "stigmatize," according to ancient definition, is "to brand with a hot iron" as "when a burning iron is put upon the face of an evildoer, it leaveth behind a stigma."

Presumably, Agnew would not go that far. Perhaps he would require all those who found this war morally wrong to wear Agnew buttons for four years. Anyhow, I don't like Agnew's remark, and I hope that upon reconsideration, he won't either and will agree to let us toss it out of our minds on Trash Day.

Police Can't Recall Panther Identity

NEW YORK, Nov. 6 (AP) —Two patrolmen machine-gunned in 1971, allegedly by Black Panther Richard Moore, testified today at Moore's trial that they could not identify who shot them.

Patrolman Thomas Curry, who was shot three times said his only memory of the entire day was "a vague recollection of attending school at John Jay College" that morning.

Asked about his next recollection, Curry replied, "Two months later at St. Luke's Hospital."

THE REASON I suggest Trash Day as a name for tomorrow is that I can't find another word which encompasses the offensiveness of each of the statements above. Some of them are bigoted and mean spirited; some are illogical or false; some are lame but potent; some quarrelsome and divisive; some actually subversive. But they have already hurt all of us and if we let them lie around after today, the country will be the worse rather than the better for having exercised its privilege of holding a free election.