

Hermann Deutsch

What Price TV--
Power This Time?

AMONG THE wonders of the wireless world is the fact that apparently no one knows or understands the variations, dips, angles and sinuosities of its impact. The professionals who direct and shape its teevy destinies apparently know less about this than almost any one else.

In advance of the historic first teevy confrontation between candidates John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Richard Milhaus Nixon nearly eight full years ago, no one realized that this alone would upset the balance of power in Kennedy's favor with such force that Nixon was defeated even in a subsequent race for the governorship of California, and withdrew from the political battlefronts in order to devote himself to the private practice of law, to study, and to travel.

His absence from the heat and dust of political campaigning came to an end less than a week ago when he announced at a press conference in New York that he was a candidate for nomination as Republican standard bearer, actively seeking the presidency of the United States, an office he lost by a longitudinally split hair in 1960. He also declined Gov. Romney's challenge to a joint teevy debate, conceding that in such a meeting he had nothing to gain that he did not already possess, while Gov. Romney had nothing to lose.



HERMANN DEUTSCH

★ ★ ★
N.B.—TOMORROW AN IMPORTANT ELECTION is being held right here at home. As a Jefferson Parish elector, I shall certainly vote for John Schwegmann for the parish's second (and newly created) state Senate seat; for the reelection of my old friend Andy Pilney to the parish council, and for the election of Mary Evelyn Parker as state treasurer, the first woman ever to hold this post in all the history of Louisiana.

Ordinarily this would be followed by a plea to you to vote tomorrow as well; not necessarily for the candidates of

my choice, since most of these might not be running in your precinct. In any case you would be urged to exercise the right "which your forefathers purchased for you with their very blood, and for which other men now seek freedom's benison and pour-out their blood and treasure this very day." . . . But if you still need to be reminded of this, I'm afraid you're past praying for.

★ ★ ★
ANOTHER QUASI-POLITICAL TEEVY eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation, held a large part of the English-speaking teevy world spellbound last week. That was when the invincible Garrison met and moved the previously immovable Carson for an unrehearsed 60 minutes.

I feel myself qualified to express the foregoing impartial and dispassionate opinion about the prattle of the century because Jim Garrison and Johnny Carson have been running neck and neck in my personal unpopularity sweepstakes.

Frankly I had expected Carson to be the winner by a split decision. He was the polished pro entertainer, with a flair for the sort of reference that is considerably more double than entendre (pronounced dooble ongtawndruh), with a background of circus, vaudeville and teevy experience. Garrison, on the other hand, was a "jolly green giant, ho-ho-ho!" with no professional experience as an entertainer, his only useful background being the rough-and-tumble of the political hustings, and the badgering of hostile witnesses in the courtroom or before a grand jury. In the impending prattle of the century, he would appear to be classically overmatched.

But he wasn't, as it happened. For one thing, he retained his cool throughout, while Carson lost his at least twice when he thought to fluster the Orleans Parish D.A. by a staccato barrage of questions.

Looking back on the occasion without bias, I still feel that it was Garrison who maintained his equipoise—his cool, if you will—and that Carson finished in the guise of a boisterously bumptious "smart Aleck" type, a professional comic who flunked his opportunity to play Hamlet or Richard Coeur-de-Lion.

Notices Sent For Shaw Trial

Formal notices went out today confirming the Feb. 13 date for the trial of Clay L. Shaw on charges of conspiracy to kill President John F. Kennedy.

The notices were sent from the Clerk of Criminal District Court to Shaw, his attorneys and the surety company which posted bond for Shaw's appearance to stand trial.