

Excerpt from program, "European Press Review," by Helga Lohr-Bailey:

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[In closing, let me give you an excerpt from an article by] a British viewer of our own elections - material which I did not have two weeks ago - and which I think is very significant in terms of how Europe views our position in the world, our role and our leadership.

The commentary, by Peter Jenkins, who is the official correspondent, as I have once mentioned before, of the Manchester Guardian in Washington, appears in the issue of that paper of November 11th, and I think it will somehow shock you but it will also perhaps be quite salutary to know what other people are saying.

He starts out by giving a general evaluation of why the people rejected McGovern and then comes to the conclusion, "However, McGovern's bid for the Presidency is likely to prove much more than an aberration. Although it split the Democratic party it also unleashed new energies which in the future may be better harnessed. George McGovern should be honored for his endeavor to bring a basic decency to the conduct of public affairs, to revive a withering sense of justice and compassion in a society deformed by callousness, brutality and greed, and to gain recognition for the simple moral fact that killing people, even when they are Asians, is wrong.

"But Senator McGovern has been whistling into an ill wind. Americans can favorably compare the state of their nation now with its state in 1968. It is true that the cities are no longer in flames and the campuses in turmoil. The nightmare of Vietnam has receded. An insecure nation, frightened by war and crime and violence and hallucinatory abandon, feels more secure under the firm hand of a mean man.

"The psychologist, Erich Fromm, observed the Germans electing Hitler and called the phenomenon 'the flight from freedom.' I am not going so far as to compare Mr. Nixon to Hitler. However, I do seriously contend that his re-election should be viewed with repugnance and deep foreboding. His record over four years ought to be sufficient warning of the evil he could accomplish in four more years. The world sees him as the man who went to Peking and Moscow, and he has dazzled the eyes of his own people with these external diversions.

"The rapprochement with China and the signing of an agreement to limit arms and promote trade with the Soviet Union were achievements of historic importance. What the world does not so clearly see is what Mr. Nixon is doing to the United States. At least as great as the dangers of super-power conflict is the danger involved in Mr. Nixon's callously insensitive handling of the fragilities of a modern industrialized society. His manipulation of fear and greed, no less brilliant in execution than his diplomacy with China and Russia, has eroded basic freedoms and dignity which, if not preserved in the U.S., may not long survive in lesser corners of the world."

I skip a few paragraphs.

"The after-spasms of the Vietnam war have yet to be experienced, and nobody could be less equipped than President Nixon to nurse his country through a period in which qualities of humanity, gentleness and understanding will be at a premium. Nixon's new social [Darwinism?] is totally inappropriate to the period of moral and social reconstruction which lies ahead. His rhetoric has all to do with enemies and war. He calls the police 'crime fighters.' He is at war against drug addiction. And these are not just metaphors of determination, but have to do with his crude, simple and miserable belief that the only language anybody understands, be it the Russians, Chinese and the North Vietnamese, or the poor, the unemployed and the black, is a language of force and threat."

And he closes, "With luck the U.S. will survive another four years under Mr. Nixon's malevolent sway, and then find a President who can bring some inspiration of humanity,

decency and understanding to his difficult task. George McGovern is a ten times better man than Richard Nixon, and let him be remembered when the stains of Nixon's presidency have been scrubbed out from the American heritage."

This, I confess, is the hardest and harshest article I have read about us.

[End.]