

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

CHET HUNTLEY

Sirs: Absolutely beautiful ("Chet Heads for the Hills," July 17)! I have watched Chet Huntley on television for years. He seemed to me to be almost Godlike. After reading this I realize how much like us humans he actually is.

RICK CHRISTIAN

San Diego, Calif.

Sirs: "I've had more cow manure on my boots," says Chet Huntley, "than he [Agnew] ever thought about." He failed to mention whether this was when he was in the barnyard or when he was in the television news room. Good night, Chet.

JERRY G. DELL

Jacksonville, Fla.

Sirs: That Huntley could comfortably drink Scotch with the man who escalated the war, and is "frightened" by the man who is withdrawing troops, seems incongruous.

THOMAS P. OSTROM

Rochester, Minn.

Sirs: If drinking hooch and talking about cows is deep, I'll take shallow any day.

GRAYCE TOROSIAN

Johnson City, N.Y.

Sirs: Anyone who is the eager shill of money-hungry promoters bent on despoiling 15,000 acres of pristine Montana wilderness at a cost of \$15 million in order to create a lucrative playground for the jaded jet set had better think twice before he judges anything more weighty than a cock fight.

DORIS SPENCER

St. Louis, Mo.

Sirs: Our "base" instincts recognized the bias years before Spiro Agnew appeared on the scene (like 1960), but thank you for verifying the VP's charges. And good night, Chet.

LAVERA PARCEL

Aberdeen, S. Dak.

Sirs: I must point to a slight but rather critical gap in communications between your reporter Tommy Thompson and me. As I recall our conversation, I said that such efforts as the 1968 campaign and the rationale on Cambodia were, in my judgment, rather shallow. I also said that since I had been given the opportunity to know the Presidents I worried about *all* of them: the power they possess, the decisions they must make and the tendency of the country to bestow upon them a degree of monarchism.

While I am not at all sure that whatever I think is all that important, perhaps it is important to state it as accurately as possible.

CHET HUNTLEY

New York, N.Y.

► *Tommy Thompson replies: "Since Chet Huntley has been a journalist approximately twice as long as I have (his*

30 years to my 15), I am sure he has experienced the cry of 'misquote.' It sometimes happens when a subject reads his outspoken words in print and suddenly decides that they were not spoken at all. But in this case they were. He is welcome to see my notebook which is filled with his eloquently enunciated words over a 48-hour period. What Mr. Huntley says in the above letter is, like almost everything he told me, a good quote and worth printing."

CON SON

Sirs: Among the hundreds of wrongs perpetrated in the name of peace, freedom and democracy in our unfortunate war, your story on "The Tiger Cages of Con Son" (July 17) ought to be the straw that breaks the camel's back. The futility of this campaign should be recognized at last. But it won't be. By God it won't be.

LAURA ROTHMAN

Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Sirs: The true colors of the Saigon government are finally brought to light for all the world to see. When I realize my tax dollars go to support a regime of this caliber, I can't help but feel a very heavy burden of guilt settle on my shoulders.

GARY ADAMS

Bellevue, Ohio

Sirs: I suspect that if Messrs. Harkin, Hawkins and Anderson were to visit the "off limits" parts of the prisons and mental hospitals within 100 miles of any home-town American city, no less distressing conditions could and would be found.

This, of course, does not make either right. But let us not condemn the Vietnamese one bit more than we condemn ourselves.

STANTON W. BALLARD

Medina, Ohio

Sirs: Chief American adviser on Vietnamese law enforcement and prison techniques Frank Walton says, "You have no right to interfere in Vietnamese affairs." I say with a loss of over 43,000 American lives we have every right to interfere.

MRS. E. J. SUROTCHAK

Lafayette, La.

THE ARGAST FAMILY

Sirs: The Argasts ("An Indiana Family Leaves the U.S. for Keeps," July 17) seem to be wonderful people, thoughtful of active, thinking people that! But as their friend said, "We're here." If all the concerned, open-minded people give U.S., we have no hope of needed changes. I will stay in the American "frontier" to help the new nation. Gratitude and national patriotism and justice leave me no other choice.

DF

Columbia, S.C.

Sirs: The Argasts certainly should be allowed to voice their opinions freely without being harassed. It is ironic, however, that people of Chet Huntley's cut feel that everyone else is "inflexible" and "not open" to them when they are cognizant of their equal respect to flex and listen. After all, Chet's neighbors were becoming intolerant of him, he was becoming intolerant of church, the schools, his business associates and, undoubtedly, his neighbors. He appears to be an epitome of the "Everyone is out of step but me" syndrome.

C. E. HARW

Fort Worth, Texas

Sirs: You say: "Although Catholics, the Argasts left the structure." Would you mind telling how a person can be a deacon and not be a member of the structure?

Ro

Berea, Ohio

Sirs: The Argast family is a fine one. I talked of banding together to buy a house so they could do something to help the country.

Park Forest, Ill.

Sirs: 22,785 Canadian dollars would be a good many Canadian dollars.

Van Nuys

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