

BOBOLINGS #3

May 1956

The last FAPA by-law which I can recall was the Speer by-law, proposed by Bob Tucker in the August 1954 mailing. Under its provisions, Jack Speer was exempted from dues and activity requirements of FAPA since he was then the organization's only charter member. He merited the honorarium in view of his tremendous contributions to FAPA over a period of many years.

Inclosed in this mailing is a proposed Perdue by-law. Under its provisions, Elmer Perdue would be removed post-haste from FAPA to make room for some new blood.

It would be tiring to trace Elmer's fecklessness over the years that he has been a member. In fact, I don't even know when he joined, except that it was before the 42nd mailing, which went out in November of 1947. As a matter of fact, it was effective that mailing that he took over as FAPA president, after having served the preceding year as official editor. Effective with the 46th mailing, he was elected ex-president for a term of ten years; from all indications his candidacy for this office had popular support.

Since the time that I have been a member, Elmer has complied scrupulously with the wording of the constitution concerning membership maintenance requirements. Since joining, I have received the following from Elmer: Elmmurings No. Nth, 8 pages of single spaced elite type with rather wide margins, dated 4 Feb 50; Elmmurings number umpteen, 9 pages as above, dated 21 Mar 51; Elmmurings No. Umpteen-plus-one, 8 pages as above with even more liberal margins, dated March 1952; Elmer undoubtedly did something in 1953, but I can find no copy, nor can I locate a reference to it in the FA for mailing 62, 63 or 64--and it had to either be in or postmailed to mailing 62; Elmmurings, First S Series, Vol. 1, No. 1, whole number 1 was an undated ten-pager in pica type with only slightly wide margins, and was postmailed to the February 1954 mailing; Elmmurings No. 1, Vol. 1 No. 1, Whole No. One was postmailed to the February 1955 mailing, and consisted of 11 pages, double spaced, larger than pica type, and one page single spaced in standard pica; you're all familiar with Elmer's latest postmailing.

Every one of the foregoing was postmailed, most of them at the last moment.

The question of whether Section 9 of the Constitution should be invoked to oust a member has been brought up from time to time in the past. In general, the feeling of FAPA has been that it should only be resorted to in extreme cases. The danger of setting a precedent by rash action has frequently been cited, as has the fear that section 9 might be misapplied to oust members who, although objectionable, were possibly capable of being rehabilitated, or who would in due course fade away. Neither of these latter can be considered a possibility in Elmer's case.

Nor do I consider this a rash action. I've been thinking over this general problem for two years--ever since I became active again. If FAPA had only a short waiting list, I'd never think of proposing this amendment, nor would I vote for it if someone else proposed it. You see, I like Elmer's annual eight-pager. I like Elmer's relaxed "go to hell" attitude. But I like

some of the publications of some of the people buried on our extensive waiting list much much better. I hope Elmer rejoins the waiting list, and that next time there is no crowded mass panting eagerly in their search for the Enchanted Duplicator. (They'll never find it here!) Free loaders are fine, but the train is full and there are a lot of paying customers outside.

This proposed by-law is admittedly sudden death. It is being asked that you vote now, rather than after a discussion period. No discussion is needed—either you're willing to put up with Perdue for year after year after year, or you're not. Perdue needs no defense, he knew this could be coming—if his last postmailing had been a legitimate eight pages, this by-law would not be proposed. Sure, others have stretched paper to get eight pages in to save their membership. How often can we allow this to happen? Your vote is your answer.

* * *

Any readers who have particularly liked Derry's Filthy Four series in Contour might be interested to learn that Derry is American Rep of the Goon Defective Agency. Other agents are Goon John Berry in Ireland, Arthur Thomson (ATOM) in Britain, Jan Jansen in Europe, Bob Shaw in Canada, Cliff Gould for West Coast US, and Steve Schulties for the US East Coast. Reports of the great investigations of these agents appear regularly in RETRIBUTION, available for John Berry, 1 Knockeden Crescent, Flush Park, Belfast, Northern Ireland, or Arthur Thomson, 17 Brockham House, Brockham Drive, London, SW2, England. Available for photos of Marilyn Monroe (with or without), fanzines, prozines, sf pubs, or even cold hard cash. It's nothing short of great, and back copies, if any, must be going fast.

* * *

Last Conny, on page 10, I quoted one of Berry's letters mentioning his propensity for being in bed whenever he received a letter from me. The latest letter in this exciting series is from Berry, bearing the date 7 March 1956, which says, in part: "This you won't believe, Bob, but honestly, the week before last I was in bed with a severe attack of influenza, and TWO LETTERS ARRIVED FROM YOU WHILST I WAS BED-BOURNE. *** I am going to write to Doris Harrison, a London fan who specializes in ESP, and mind-reading, and all that sort of bunkum. I am going to hire her to send me a postcard everytime her mystic senses tell her a letter from you is due to reach me. Then I shall put in for one days leave, get settled down in bed and blissfully await the postman. It may seem that I am going to extreme lengths, but note that it is much better this way than to tempt fate to dump me into bed for some obscure ailment...maybe even beri-beri." I'm worried, though. I sent Berry three letters--did the other one arrive before he'd had a chance to contact Doris Harrison? I haven't heard from him in two months, except for Retribution No. 2, which might well have been put out by ATOM to conceal from the world the shocking fact that the Goon is suffering terribly from some obscure ailment--maybe even beri-beri. Still though, if that were the case, Derry would be out for revenge for his boss. Is that why he looks at me...and laughs?

BOB PAVLAT
6001 - 43RD AVE.
HYATTSVILLE, MD.