

# RUR 17

This comes out generally every week or so from 2431 Dwight Way, Berkeley 4, California mainly due to the efforts of David Rike, who wishes it known that unless he writes or endorses it, the opinions expressed in items appearing in RUR are not necessary his own. Like Gem Carr's letters, or the broadsheet quoted below.

AND SO I SAID TO HIM, "KEEP YOUR GODAMN HANDS AND POLITICS OFF OF ME."



(by George Metzger)

As a posting to the latest FAPA mailing, G.M. Carr has sent out a broad sheet, apparently a reprint of a news - paper ad (full page) which is a "reply" to an ad run by some anti-Bomb testers. Sponsoring the ad is (get this) Robert and Virginia Heinlien, of Colorado Sprgs Colorado.

Under the heading of "Who Are The Heirs Of Patrick Henry ?/Stand Up And Be Counted!" there are little gems like:

"We say to the commissars: 'You will never enslave us. The worst you can do is kill us. But we are resolved to die free!'"

"No scare talk of leukemia, mutation, or atomic holocaust will sway us. Is 'fall-out' dangerous? Of course it is! The risk to life and posterity has been willfully distorted by these Communist-line propagandists — but if it were a hundred times as great we still would choose it to the dead certainty of Communist enslavement. If atomic war comes, will it kill off the entire human race? Possibly—almost certainly so if the Masters of the Kremlin choose to use cobalt bombs on us. Their command of

science in these matters seems equal to ours, they appear to be some years ahead of us in the art of rocketry; they almost certainly have the power to destroy the human race.

"If it comes to atomic war, the best we can hope for is tens of millions of American dead — perhaps more than half our population wiped out in the first few minutes.

"Colorado Springs is at least a secondary target; all of us here may be killed.

"These are the risks. The alternative is surrender. We accept the risks."

"We have no easy solution to offer. The risks cannot be avoided other than by surrender; they can be reduced only by making the free world so strong that the evil pragmatists of Communism cannot afford to murder us. The price to us will be year after weary year of higher taxes, harder work, grim devotion...and perhaps, despite all of this — death. But we shall die free!"

It ends with a petition to the president, with a place to sign your name and address (did you send yours in, Gem?):

"Dear Mr. President: We know that you are being pressured to stop our nuclear weapons tests, turn our missile and space program over to the U.N., and in other ways to weaken our defenses.

"We urge you to stand steadfast.

"We want American made supremely strong and we are resolved to accept all burdens necessary to that end. We ask for total effort — nuclear testing, research, and development, highest priorities for rocketry, sterner education, anything that is needed. We are ready to pay higher taxes, forego luxuries, work harder.

"To this we pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

There is, of course, more to it than just those quoted portions. I imagine if you wrote to G.M. Carr, she would no doubt be more than willing to send you a copy of it.

The most disturbing note I find in it is the jive about, "But we shall die free" Every thing is not neatly divided into black and white, into Patriotic Americans and Treacherous Communists. There're plenty of other people in the world, and they can live perfectly well without either capitalism or stalinism, and ICBMs, H - bombs, nuclear submarines, nerve gas, and biological warfare.

What . . . you haven't heard about nerve gas the US is making? Well, let me be the first to tell you . . . Vitro Engineering Co. has put out a very neat brochure, with pictures and all, and the accompanying text:

#### The New Nerve Gas Plant At Denver

These pictures show some of the engineering features of the \$40,000,000 Nerve Gas Plant at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Denver, Colorado, engineered for the Army Chemical Corps. Vitro was responsible for process design, detailed engineering, construction management and preliminary operation. Some of the techniques used in the development and engineering of this plant were exceptional. Vitro engineered an even larger companion facility, costing \$46,000,000, at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, for production of a nerve gas constituent.

\$86,000,000 in just those two installations alone for nerve gas; nerve gas, the clean killer that leaves no unsightly fall-out and which causes no mass destruction of property . . . it just kills people, and (no doubt) other life forms. Just the thing for breaking up strikes or other internal disorders, the perfect device to ensure control of state power. Perhaps the Pentagon, White House and other branches of the government may one day agree with the plea of Heinlien and decide to go All-Out on defense, and do anything that is needed; naturally, this will result eventually in an authoritarian regime that must suppress portions of the population (like the Jap-Americans interned along the west coast during WW II without due process of law) for the "Effort," which will lead into a de facto, if not recognized, dictatorship. ". . . anything that is needed." is what Heinlien said. If large portions of the population object to the measures being taken and do such an inconsiderate thing as to go out on strike, or actively combat the instruments of State Power, the army and police, why it is but the matter of a moment to push a few buttons and subdue the disorderly populace with some nerve gas. Those who survive will learn what it means to oppose the monolithic edifice of the all mighty State.

This "Die Free" jazz gives me the impression that the extreme right are . . . Beat; they're on a Mad, Self-Destruction Kick, urging the building of more and more and more ICBMs, nuclear subs that can fire IRBMs from under water, larger and better H-bombs (with of course, more and more tests to perfect a "clean H-bomb"), and they would no doubt not object to research into nerve gas, biological warfare (the firms involved in EW, unlike the Vitro Engineering Co., have not come out in gayly colored brochure boasting about their accomplishments or otherwise publicized their work, so I can't divulge any of their goings-on), and whatever other weapons are being developed by the American defense industries. The "Beats" over in North Beach, at least, realize that the only life you have any right to fool with is your own, other persons' lives are Their Business. However, the Extreme Right doesn't seem to dig this, they're not only willing to kill themselves, but everyone else in the world with them, without bothering to find out what those other persons want to do. I don't dig it at all, man . . . it's a punk scene that I certainly don't want to make, a-tall. It turns me off.

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"I dreamt I saw Forrest J Ackerman at an Esperanto meeting."  
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Despite that fact that the wrapper which the aforementioned broadsheet was sent out in had a great big "Ron Bennett for TAFF" I doubt it very much that Ron in any-way supports what Heinlien said. I know we Berkeleyans for Bennett certainly don't.

---June 22, 1958