

ney, may take self, for the long pull, much less disqualified himself for the nomination, is an unwarranted conclusion.

The consequence of the whole uproar, and Romney's subsequent refusal to back down, is that a Republican contender stands before the people avowedly critical of Johnson's war in Vietnam. It is about time that the bipartisan cant about the war was ended. Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy all contributed to this bogus consensus, but it was Johnson who is responsible for the massive escalation, for making this an *American* war. If the GOP has any sense left, it will pre-empt the peace position now, unequivocally, and force Johnson to run as the war candidate. Nothing like this can be expected from a habitual practitioner of deviousness like Richard Nixon; but Romney managed, so to speak, to fall into the position, and so has contributed a mite toward the political clarification that was so badly needed.

The Teachers' Revolt

There is a larger issue in the current rash of teachers' strikes than the bread-and-butter one. Teachers are staging a revolt against the failure of the public to upgrade the status of the profession. There is every reason to believe them when they say they are concerned about the school system as well as about winning better working conditions. In New York City the fiscally beleaguered Lindsay administration made a generous offer to the union. But in New York as elsewhere teachers want a larger voice in policy determination as well as better pay. Teachers are in revolt as well as on strike. The attitude of public employees toward collective bargaining and the right to strike has undergone a marked change in the last five years. Timothy Cooney, in a *Nation* article (January 24, 1966), pointed out: "Until a few years ago, the average civil servant was prevented from striking by his own convictions and not by laws and injunctions. . . . In recent years, however, there has been a marked change in attitude." A "new breed" of public employee has emerged, younger, better educated, with higher expectations. This "new breed" will not accept lower wage rates and inferior working conditions in exchange for security of employment. Nor will it settle merely for better wages; it demands a new status. There has been, for example, a significant change in the composition of the teaching profession. The National Education Association points out that men, mostly young men, now constitute 31 per cent of all teachers and more than half of those in high schools. Public employees today have outgrown the subservient attitudes of the past and demand exactly the same rights as other workers. Legislation is not likely to prevent or terminate their strikes.

Not only has a "new breed" emerged; the public's attitude has begun to change. The public is much more willing to concede the right to strike that it was not so many years ago. Teachers are not unmindful of their professional responsibilities, but the public has been unmindful of the critically important role of the teacher in society. In the past, the public has been fairly generous in supporting school bands, athletic programs, buildings

the profession.

House of Spooks

Critics of the Central Intelligence Agency have for years said that that house of spooks is nutty; but for the most part such things were said in the spirit of hyperbole. Now it appears that perhaps they were right in this: the CIA does in fact appear to be run by kooks.

Assuming that an organization's sanity can be tested by the manner in which it hires and fires its employees, consider this evidence of mental aberration: The CIA uses handwriting analysis (according to *The Wall Street Journal*) to test the character and personality traits of job applicants. This is scarcely a scientific or even a common-sense test, of course, but that doesn't seem to bother the men who run the CIA.

More recently Sen. Sam Ervin of North Carolina came up with the fascinating information that at least as late as 1963 the CIA was financing the development of a "wobble seat," a sly kind of lie detector. The job applicant would be seated in a plain-looking chair during his interview; but unbeknownst to him, the specially equipped seat would be recording his pulse, adrenalin flow, respiration and skin dampness. It is not known whether the wobble seat has ever been put into service.

What is known is that the CIA is using its battery of ordinary lie-detector machines with a mindless fury. Senator Ervin has learned, through his own sources within the spy agency (its top officials will no longer talk with him) that more than 5,000 lie tests were administered on both employees and would-be employees during the last year, and only thirty for counterintelligence purposes.

Because of his psychotic affection for the machine, CIA Director Richard Helms is frantically determined that Congress shall not include his agency under the pending bill to outlaw lie-detector tests and to prohibit any government agency from asking a job applicant such things as whether he ever had sexual relations with an animal, whether he slept with his wife before marriage, whether he urinates more than other people, or whether he believes in the Second Coming. Helms has lobbied furiously in the Senate to keep the privilege of asking CIA workers questions of this sort, and he will undoubtedly now go to work on the House to defend his bureaucratic voyeurism.

He is especially interested in having the right to use the lie detector to hunt for homosexuals. But the reason is not clear. Does he wish to get rid of them as security risks? Or does he want to recruit them as agents? The latter is rumored and the rumor has been published, even in the highly responsible *Christian Science Monitor*. Helms has not denied the published rumors. Senator Ervin—certainly no defender of Helms—feels, however, that not even the CIA is that dumb. But even assuming the CIA wants to use the lie detector to weed out homosexuals, this makes little sense.