

Maddox Victory Sad, Shocking

The nomination of Lester G. Maddox as Democratic candidate for governor of Georgia may someday qualify for the alltime list of dubious achievements, but it now turns out to be so funny it hurts.

Maddox has twisted the tale of a virtuous David against the evil Goliath into a hideous contortion. He is now the champion of the defunct ideal of White Supremacy.

The shocking thing is that Maddox did it with the help of some 400,000 Georgia voters. Does this indicate a relapse among white citizens, frightened by the rapidity of the civil rights revolution, into the old, familiar rut of intolerance?

Maddox, a furniture merchant who quit the cafeteria business rather than serve Negroes, defeated, in Wednesday's runoff primary, former governor Ellis G. Arnall, who advocated a moderate racial policy.

And it was a significant popular victory because Maddox did it without the support of the big-money or high-level political powers.

"God and the people are my campaign managers," exclaimed Maddox after learning of his victory.

The people Maddox spoke of must have surely been impressed with his decisiveness and executive ability when he provided axhandles to his customers at his cafeteria to use against Negro demonstrators protesting his refusal to comply with the federal law.

And his position of vehement opposition to the federal government, President Lyndon Johnson, liberalism, socialism and communism surely has the makings of a progressive and intelligent political platform.

The main question, however, is whether Maddox's victory represents a regeneration of racial bigotry or only the last defiant gasp of an outmoded attitude.

It will be resolved in the same way that Maddox won — by a majority of the people. It will prove, perhaps decisively, how ready the people of Georgia are to grant equality to a minority of their citizens.

—MIKE BERRY

John Steinbeck On The War

By PETE GARZA
Battalion Columnist

One of the most impressive articles that I have read concerning the Vietnamese War appeared in the July 22 edition of PEC (Politica, Economia, y Cultura), a weekly magazine published in Santiago, Chile. In it was John Steinbeck's reply to an open letter from the young and popular Russian poet Yevtushenko.

Yevtushenko pleaded to Mr. Steinbeck to open his mouth and "bare his teeth" in denouncing war as he had so often done in the past. To paraphrase Mr. Yevtushenko rather loosely (he wrote the article in Russian; I read it in Spanish; and I write it now in English) his argument ran as follows:

"You have so often in the past written of the misery created by war. You detest war. Yet why haven't you denounced the aggressive actions of the United States? Why have you sat idly by and watched your soldiers, and, yes, even your own son, murder women and children in Vietnam? You, who deplore destruction; who deplore needless murders, injuries and who are most sensitive to suffering, must certainly feel a little pity and sympathy for the Vietnamese people who witness daily the ravages of war. Yes, Mr. Steinbeck, we young wolves have bared our teeth in denouncing your war in Vietnam.

It was a polite and respectful letter from one friend to another. Mr. Steinbeck answered in the same vein. After expressing his admiration for the young poet's works, and his best wishes for the future, Steinbeck answered in the following manner:

"You are right, John. I hate

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war with all its destruction, misery, suffering, and bloodshed. My heart aches for the thousands of Vietnamese who lose their loved ones, or see their simple homes destroyed by bombings. My sympathy goes out especially to the young, and to the innocent who must suffer for the guilty. For this reason, John, I have denounced war in the past and will continue to denounce war for as long as I live. But I cannot do what you ask of me, for you want me to denounce only half a war — our half. The war in Vietnam is not the result of aggressive actions by the United States Army. The United States entered the war at the request of the South Vietnamese government, and only after documented evidence had been presented that

the Vietnamese war was not a civil war, but a war initiated by North Vietnam and supported by the Communist regimes of China and the Soviet Union.

"Consequently, I cannot denounce our half of the war, anymore than you will denounce your half. But I invite you, dear friend, to join me in denouncing all the war, if in your heart, you share my feeling for the unfortunate victims of any war."

Like Mr. Steinbeck, I cannot understand why critics of the United States policy denounce our "immoral actions" in Vietnam, and then close their minds to the enemy's part in this war. If we are going to denounce the Vietnamese war on moral grounds, let's not denounce halves; let's denounce war in its entirety.

Mortimer's Notes

Hey, all you guys (and gals too) who have an overall G.P.R. of 1.5 or better and plan to graduate not later than June 1967, get in your form for Who's Who . . . that is, if you've got something on the ball . . .

Trumpler "Doc" Severinsen is coming to town . . . he's in the band on Johnny Carson's Tonight show . . . you'll need tickets to get in this one . . . that's at Town Hall.

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Lights are burning late at Guion Hall . . . Aggie Players are rehearsing for the big one in Dec . . .

If you're planning to go to the LSU game, don't forget to get tickets early . . . your activity card won't help you here. While you're there, take a swing down New Orleans way . . . it's nice this time of year . . . you might even meet Inez coming in from the East . . . I'm sure an Aggie and a hurricane could really tear up the place . . . See Ya Round . . . Mortimer.

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