



THE CHURCH 1973 Fr. Andrew Greeley

"The last 12 months have been a great time for the United States," a distinguished professor of history recently remarked to me.

"Huh," said I with my usual quick, alert intelligence:

"Sure," he said, "first of all, we got rid of the McGovernites and now we're getting rid of the Nixonites. These two groups in one form or another have been plaguing us for two decades and now both of them are thoroughly discredited. We'll be able to get on with the business of the 20th Century."

Being a professor of history gives one a serenity of perspective that people like me who are incapable of seeing politics from any eye but that of the local precinct lack. But the historian was probably right. The country has gotten rid of both Harvard Square and Orange County. It may take a while to get Orange County out of our system since Mr. Nixon apparently intends to "tough it out" for three more years no matter what damage he does to the prestige of the country and the presidency.

Still, it is not likely that in this century we will have to choose again between a knave and a fool, between Gary Hart and Jeb Stuart Magruder, between John Mitchell and Frank Mankiewicz, between Bebe Rebozo and Shirley McLaine, between John Erlichman and Jesse Jackson, between H. R. "Bob" Haldeman and Rick Sternes, between Massachusetts college professors and Disneyland advertising men.

We may well wonder how the country got into such a crazy choice — now that a year has passed since the grim 1972 election day. There are all kinds of bright and elaborate theories about "trends," "polarization," "realignment," and "new coalitions." I find myself very skeptical about such pseudo-learned mumbo jumbo. A couple of assassinations, a bizarre auto accident, George Meany's decision to support Humphrey and thus take much of the middle of the road Democratic vote away from Senator Muskie, the peculiar inability of the senator from Maine — an intelligent and dignified man when not an active candidate — to withstand the merciless pressure of the media on the "front runner," all of these seem in combination a sufficient explanation of what happened without any need to appeal to mysterious "trends."

The McGovernites and the Nixonites are both products of three decades of prosperity. The former represent the "new class" of college educated "intellectuals," the latter the equally "new class" of successful small (as opposed to giant corporations) business operators.

Both groups are serenely confident of their own integrity, intelligence and excellence. Both have not the slightest doubt that they know what is good for the country. Both consider themselves above the requirements of ordinary morality (the confrontation between Daniel Ellsberg and John Erlichman is a battle between two people who are convinced that they are above the law). Both are convinced that they are the wave of the future. Both are completely out of touch with the rest of the country — and particularly with the urban groups (including the blacks) who are indispensable for

REGIMENTAL REVIEW

The annual inspection, review and dress parade of the Rochester Regiment, Knights of St. John, will be held at Bishop Kearney High School at 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 4. The regiment will be under the command of Col. Joseph L. Cimino. The public is invited.

any functioning political coalition.

In a sense, we have been through a struggle between two sets of barons not unlike England's War of the Roses. The wheeler-dealer big money types who presided over CREEP are no more representative of the Republican party than zealous young militants are of the Democratic party. Herbert Kambach and Gloria Steinem would have a hard time delivering a single precinct — no matter how much money the one and how much media attention the other might be able to collect.

So my friend was right: We are well rid of both "new class" factions. But are we really rid of them? Can the rank and file voters and their duly elected leaders in the state houses and Congress wrest control of the parties away from the new activists who have the time, the money and the desire to play at the political game regardless of what their amusements do to the country? On the answer to that question may well depend the future of the Republic.

Political Advertisement

'Welcome Night' at St. John's

All new parishioners of St. John of Rochester in Fairport are invited to attend "Welcome Night," Friday, Nov. 9.

The pastor, Father Vincent P. Collins, and his assistant, Father Joseph O. Gorman, and organization and department heads will be on hand on to greet new families.

The social evening will be held in the school cafeteria and will begin with refreshments starting at 7:30 p.m.

The activities for the evening are under the sponsorship of the parish Christian Service Com-

mittee, headed by Mrs. Marcia Ritchlin and chaired by Ruth Spencer. Others assisting are Bert Goyette, Eleanor Goyette, Pat Roman, Mary Stid, Marianne Toombs, Susan Dambra, Kay Dillman, Helen Konz, Marie Taylor and Mary Ann Norton.

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Vote for Michael K. CONSEDINE
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- ★ For an evening term for small claims
- ★ For a special term concerned with youth

Mike Consedine is a graduate of Cornell Law School, LL.B., and St. Bonaventura University, A.B. cum laude, and is a U.S. Army veteran. He has served as Ass't District Attorney and Deputy County Attorney. His private law practice has involved both criminal and civil cases. He has served in the U.S. State Dept. as a member of the Monroe County Bar, University Club, Elks, American Legion, and Knights of Equity. He is a Parish Councilman and Lector at Blessed Sacrament Church and lives at 445 Harvard St. with wife Nancy and daughter Elizabeth.
Citizens for Consedine
Alan Altman, Chairman

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On November 6th you can help build a strong city government 5 ways.

- Increased housing, more jobs, new schools, recreation areas and progressive downtown development planning.
- Strengthening the concept of citizen participation in city government.
- More state and federal dollars for programs like PAC-TAC and increased foot patrols.
- Record-breaking housing construction.
- Significant reduction in crime.

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