

BILL HOBBS

'Under The Spreading Atrophy'

(Note: The headline on this article, the sub-title of a book by S. J. Perelman, has nothing to do with the article itself.—Eds.)

With obvious relish and equally obvious bias, TIME magazine, long recognized as a master of the editorial "news story," has devoted five pages of its latest issue to the glorification of Barry Goldwater.

Unfortunately, TIME's characterization of Goldwater as "G.O.P. salesman supreme and the political phenomenon of 1961" appears to be an accurate one.

There does seem to be a rash of conservatism spreading in the land. Like most rashes, it is both irritating and confusing. One of the chief irritants is Barry Goldwater. His articulations of the conservative philosophy find new listeners constantly, especially among college students. His conservatism is definitely beginning to itch.

CONSERVATIVE CONSCIENCE CONFUSED?

If Goldwater's book on the subject is any true guide, The Conscience of a Conservative must be suffering from a good deal of confusion.

In the first two-thirds of his volume, Goldwater expounds the essentials of conservative domestic policy; in the final third he expounds conservative foreign policy.

This final third is disastrous to the whole book and to Goldwater's whole political philosophy, for the basic tenet of the conservative foreign policy is in diametric opposition to the basic tenet of conservative domestic policy.

The principle which permeates Goldwater's views on the domestic problems which he treats is that we must achieve "the maximum amount of freedom for individuals that is consistent with the maintenance of social order."

After developing his "maximum amount of freedom for individuals" principle as the basis for his conservative conscience, Goldwater proceeds to examine several domestic fields in the light of this maxim.

The Senator's scorching glance shifts from the "perils" of governmental power, to the degenerate condition of state's rights, civil rights, "Freedom for the Farmer," and "Freedom for Labor," to the evils of high taxes and government spending, the welfare state, and government encroachment on education.

Throughout his analysis of the domestic situation Goldwater maintains that the U. S. government of the last thirty years under Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower has continually eaten away at individual freedom and initiative in every area of public and private life.

His words are lucid and to a certain extent convincing. The case, as Goldwater presents it, does seem to lie against the growing scope and power of the federal government.

Nevertheless, one should remember that it is very easy for someone to rise up in 1961 and speak out boldly for individual freedom when he drives a Thunderbird to work every day (as does the Senator from Arizona). It is not so easy for someone to do likewise if he is living on a social security check, living in a house built through a government loan, or attending a government-built school on a government loan.

Even Mr. Goldwater's money

is insured up to \$10,000 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Perhaps Americans of the past thirty years could have and should have solved their social problems all by their lonesomes without so much governmental aid, BUT they did not. They were not obligated to re-elect Roosevelt three times, BUT they did. These facts remain immutable in spite of all of Mr. Goldwater's words.

While the conservative spokesman's words have the noble ring of good ol' time Americanism about them, this ring is somewhat hollow in the context of the United States today.

FREEDOM IN THE GRAVE?

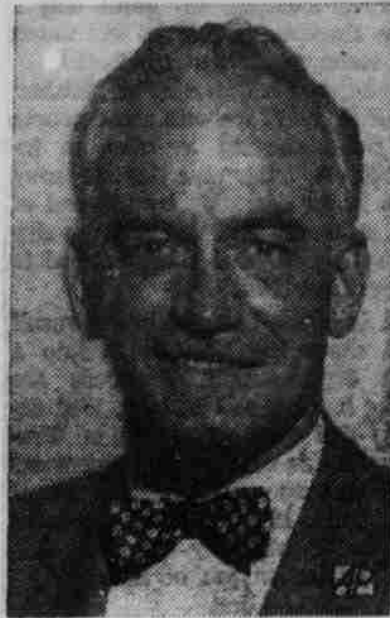
Both the principles and the application of Goldwater's foreign policy are disastrous in themselves and disastrous to the one attractive element in his domestic policies: the emphasis on individual freedom.

The cornerstone of our foreign policy, says Goldwater in the beginning of his chapter on The Soviet Menace, should be the view "that we would rather die than lose our freedom." This, like many Goldwater pronouncements, sounds fine and true at first but is seem to be devoid of truth upon further examination.

Dying to preserve one's freedom is a logical contradiction. What freedom will Mr. Goldwater, and the other Americans whom his policies would get killed, have when they are in their graves? He may have pre-

served his freedom from Communist oppression, but it will do him no good six feet under the ground.

The principle on which Gold-



BARRY GOLDWATER

water bases his foreign policy directly contradicts the principle of his domestic policy. The one advocates living in freedom, and the other advocates dying and excuses by saying it will preserve freedom,—an absurd excuse at best.

The more specific aspects of Goldwater's foreign policy also lead to a restriction of freedom and a contradiction of his domestic policies.

Goldwater's chief objective in foreign affairs is to win the war against Communism, not to win peace. "Our strategy must be primarily offensive in nature," he writes. He would "withdraw diplomatic recognition from all Communist governments including that of the Soviet Union. . . We must—ourselves—be prepared to undertake military operations against vulnerable Communist regimes. . . .to move a highly mobile task force equipped with appropriate nuclear weapons to the scene of the revolt," says Goldwater. In short, the United States should be mobilized into a state of war much more intense than its present cold war state, according to Goldwater.

THE STATE OF WAR

When a country is in a state of war, governmental power naturally and necessarily increases. The country must be unified under a centralized control if the war is to be won. This has been demonstrated time and gain. For instance, Irish and Prothro's The Politics of American Democracy (the text used in the basic political science course of this University) states, "The Constitution grants the national government almost absolute authority in time of war;" and, "In World War I the national government assumed unprecedented powers over the economy of the country. Congress authorized the President to regulate the importation, manufacture, storage, mining, or distribution of essential materials; to

requisition foods, feeds, and fuels; to take over and operate factories. . . ." The same situation developed in World War II.

A similar situation would also develop if we were to follow Goldwater's foreign policy. Quite obviously all of the governmental powers necessary in World Wars I and II would not be necessary in a state of war such as Goldwater advocates. We would not actually be engaged in a war as such for a comparatively short period of time. Rather, we would be in a perpetual state of half-war, more intense than the present cold war, but not as intense as World War II. We would be in the state of war now occupied by Russia.

But the national government would still need vastly increased powers to maintain the state of war which Goldwater advocates. The President's powers as commander-in-chief of the military would be invoked whenever we undertook "military operations against vulnerable Communist regimes." And, as Goldwater says, such a state of war would necessitate striving to "achieve and maintain military superiority." How will we do this without increased government spending and increased taxation or increased national debt to enable this spending?

The state of war in which Goldwater would put us would of necessity involve increased government power and decreased individual freedom.

And yet Mr. Goldwater objects to increased government spending, objects to our system of taxation, objects violently to increased governmental power. How does he explain this contradiction?

Does he think that the government's power and spending would decrease once the war was won? Probably they would, but as he says, we must "wage a war of attrition against them (the Communists)." Wars of attrition by their nature take long periods of time. This one would take even longer, considering its world-wide scope and the present power of the Soviets.

And where is the guarantee that governmental power would decrease once the crisis had passed? The New Deal programs which receive so much venom from Goldwater were enacted to meet the specific crisis of the depression. They were not suspended once that crisis had passed. Many of them are still with us.

SCRATCH CONSERVATISM

Thus the perils of governmental power which Goldwater so violently objects to in the domestic section of his book would be increased for a long, indefinite period of time by the policies he advocates in the foreign section of his book.

This does not speak very well for Mr. Goldwater's views; furthermore, it does not speak very well for the views of those who support Goldwater.

The rash of conservatism is spreading; it is beginning to itch. We suggest it is time for America to scratch.

Next Week

Because of the length of editorial page materials this week, we will not be able to run several letters to the editor. Next week a long letters to the editor column will be run. Students are encouraged to write letters and columns of any length and bring them up to the News office, second floor Graham Memorial.

"Make Berlin A Free City! Free Of America, Free Of Britain, Free Of France, Free Of Democracy..."



SANDERS