

NEW ZEALAND  
**LISTENER**  
Incorporating N.Z. RADIO RECORD

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## Many Are Called

WE suspect that it was not altogether to amuse or enrich himself that our contributor B.F. sent us the "Confession of a Defeated Candidate" which we printed in last issue. It probably did amuse him to put his memories on paper, and he may have had a more sanguine view of the rewards of free-lance journalism than his cheque will justify; but he nowhere said that he thought he had wasted his time. It is not at all likely that he did waste his time, and it is certainly not likely that he was asked to stand for Parliament by a group of irresponsibles. Adventurers do occasionally appear on nomination lists now that there are some compensations for public service, but they do not often get there with the knowledge of their sponsors, and when they do they do not often get any further. It is in fact more true to-day than it ever was before that men are nominated for Parliament because their nominators sincerely believe that they will do useful public work in Parliament, and not because it would be useful to have them there as dummies or log-rollers. That used to be one of the reasons for sending a man to Parliament, and in the dim origins of Parliamentary government he was there for no other purpose. To-day he is elected for a serious purpose whether it is afterwards misused or not, and no man need blush because he is either asked to stand or agrees to stand and is then rejected. He has kept his part of the bargain made with society when it gave him the franchise and rights of citizenship, and he may go back to his job with a clear conscience. But he will of course go back with less embarrassment if he preserves a sense of humour throughout his campaign—demands nothing, promises nothing, expects nothing, and remembers that since *vox populi* is *vox dei* it will be impious to feel sorry for himself if the voice in his case says No.

## LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

### ICE-CREAM OR STARVING INDIANS.

Sir,—In your leading article of August 27 you make reference (by way of illustration, and perhaps not altogether unsympathetically) to boys, ice-creams, and starving Indians, and finally state that "the boy who is more interested in good works than in good ice-cream is not exactly the kind of boy the average man would like for a son."

Is that a fair way to put it? There are a great many boys (and girls) in New Zealand who are keenly interested in both ice-creams and starving Indians (or Chinese), and who are willing to forgo some of the former in order to help the latter. This is as it should be. Only a man without understanding of what it means when millions of men, women and children starve would be ashamed of his son if he wished to give up some of his usually fairly numerous ice-creams on their behalf.

What hope is there of a decent world order, Christian or otherwise, so long as this selfish outlook is encouraged? And what hope that anyone who does not learn young to be unselfish will ever learn? Surely the leading article of this excellent and widely-read paper is not the place for any suggestion of priggishness in those, young or old, who take at its face value God's great command to love one another!

—FORBID THEM NOT (Matangi).

### FILM CRITICISM.

Sir,—Your correspondent, Dennis Hartley, is of the opinion that "G.M." is the only film critic in the country, and therefore the best. Since Mr. Hartley is quite right in his statement that "G.M." is the only critic in the country, he cannot be compared with anyone else, and in this light, being alone in his trade, he is the best. However, if compared with good critics from overseas, "G.M." appears in a different light, and it would be as logical to say that he is not the best, but the worst critic in New Zealand. His criticism of *49th Parallel* was a flag-

rant example of undeserved criticism. In spite of Mr. Hartley's opinion to the contrary, a picture can and must be judged only on its popularity, for what is a picture for, but entertainment and relaxation from thought? *49th Parallel* was extremely popular all over the world, and yet "G.M.", one man in millions, did not like it! He condemns it because of slight technicalities. He says it failed as propaganda, as the natural tendency is to pity one man who is sought by many. This psychology is entirely false, especially when the man is a ruthless German.

Dennis Hartley declares that "any tripey film can have a lengthy run." I contend that a tripey film will have a lengthy run only through excessive advertising. Even then, it will not last as long as a film enjoying a long run on its own merits. It is in his reviews of this latter type of film that "G.M." should be reminded that it is possible to be too candid in his column "Speaking Candidly."

—ELLERY CLARK (Wellington).

### RADIO AFTER THE ELECTION.

Sir,—Whatever the result of the forthcoming Election should be, it is certain that some changes will be made in Broadcasting by the duly elected Government. The following in my opinion, are what the people really want:

1. Decisive action against man-made interference. Every town in New Zealand should have a Radio Inspector whose job would be to trace and have power to correct all interference.
2. Better programmes. A comprehensive campaign should be started whereby listeners could be encouraged to let the authorities know just what sort of programmes they like.
3. Better announcers, and finesse in handling the controls.
4. Investigation for the introduction of Static-less or Modulated Frequency, radio stations and television.

—W. T. BROWN (Westport).

### SALARIES FOR HOUSEWIVES.

Sir,—With E.Y. (Patorua) I am in hearty accord. But she is too modest when she demands only more creches, kindergarten schools, and home helps. Until there are salaries for housewives, and allowances for families (regardless of the father's earnings), there will be no increase in population. As housewives and mothers we are the only members of society who receive no salary—for which we are on duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, every week in the year with never a holiday. And with every child that is born we lower our standard of living!

The mother urge is of course so strong in us that many of us continue to have children in spite of our judgment. But our number is decreasing. As Bernard Shaw points out, many a potential mother is lost because an intelligent woman now refuses to become servant to some man as a means to motherhood.

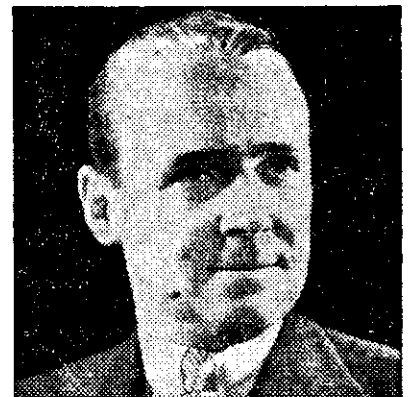
—"DIGNITY OF MOTHERHOOD" (Howick).

### POINT FROM LETTER

"Annoyed Listener" (Wellington), is "fed up" with American and other band programmes, and wants more of "the old type of programme" from the Commercial stations on Sundays. There is also, he says, far too much classical music on the National stations, which should, he thinks, "use each station for one class of programme."

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT  
L.S. (Auckland): Larry Simms.

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## South and North

(By WHIM-WHAM)

"I believe we will have a government in the future which will see that the South Island gets the justice that it has not had in the past."—S. G. Holland, Leader of the National Party, speaking in Christchurch.

THE Miles of Sea that separate The North and South—I mean Cook Strait—

Must influence the mental Trend Of Those who live at either End. All Gaul, in 55 B.C. Was not divided into Three More clearly than the Ocean blue Divides New Zealand into Two. The North produces Butter, Cheese, And Acts of Parliament—but These Are Less its Pride (so it would seem) Than Mudholes and volcanic Steam The South, addicted More to Crops, Has Glaciers and Mountain-tops (For Ornament, not Cultivation), And lags behind in Population. Perhaps in many Years—Who knows?—South Islanders may change, and Those Who live in such a different Place Become in Time a different Race? Would they accept, in that Event A northern Seat of Government? Or would they claim, with Noise and Fuss, The Right to be autonomous? My Hope and Trust is, I may say, That Progress tends the other Way—More Integration every Year, Less casual Need for us to hear From any Politician's Mouth Such Talk of Justice for the South.