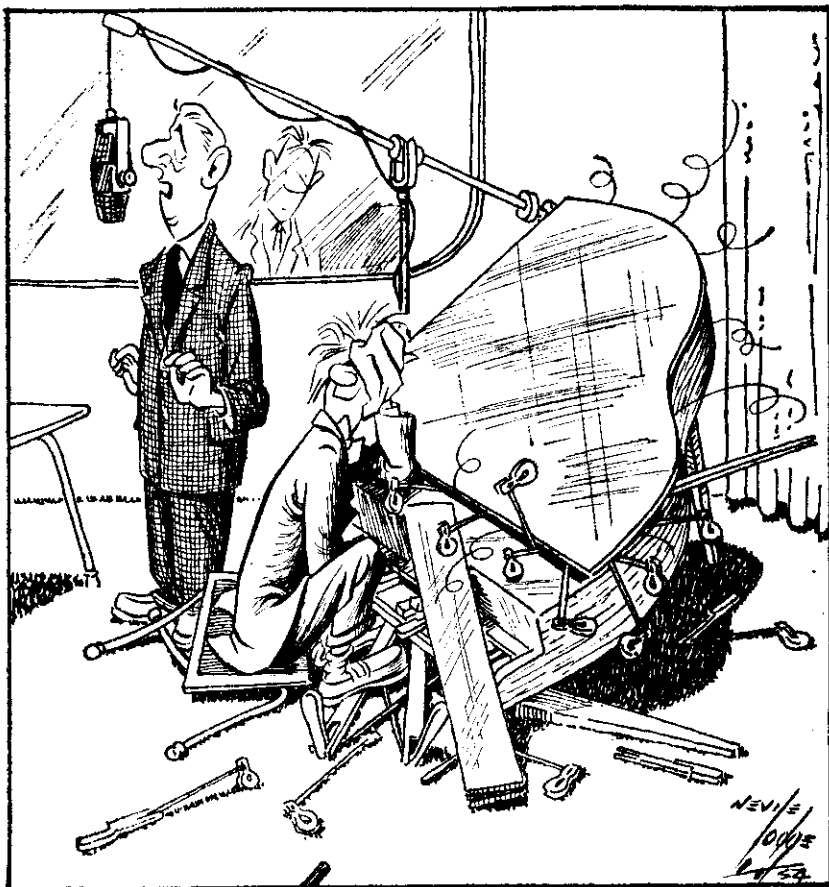


Lodge Listens . . .



"We regret that owing to a slight break in this studio recital . . ."

and perhaps even the one before that. We New Zealanders are now almost as well placed; we can compare this year's *She Stoops to Conquer* with the one we heard from the BBC some three years ago. I should be inclined to put this year's ahead of the earlier version, not so much for acting as for production, which was happy without being artful. The impish changes of mood in the music interlacing the play aroused the liveliest expectation, and the repetition of Kate's haunting little song, "Ah, Me, When Shall I Marry Me," whenever it was necessary to switch the audience from farce to sentiment, was particularly telling.

—M.B.

Bridging the Gulf

FIVE weeks' enthusiastic broadcasting from a dictionary of superlatives culminated in the tumultuous hail and farewell at Bluff, and as the Royal Yacht Gothic moved slowly away from New Zealand, something of an anticlimax seemed inevitable. A tribute should be paid, therefore, to the excellent bridging of the gulf between festival and ordinary life by the well-written and very well-delivered final comments which were restrained, yet moving, and in excellent taste. Both writer and reader remained anonymous in this case, and one would like to know to whom credit is due for a very good effort.

Hero-worship

A NEW biography of T. E. Lawrence by Richard Aldington is reputed to contain evidence that impairs, if it does

not damage considerably, the usually accepted knightly reputation of its subject. The BBC apparently has not yet caught up with any of this evidence, judging by Robert Gregson's portrait of Lawrence of Arabia, heard from 4YA in the series *The British Overseas*. Aldington, of course, may be wrong; but the sheer perfection, in the BBC version, of the knight *sans peur et sans reproche*, was sadly difficult to believe in. It would appear to be the faults, rather than the virtues, which bring a character to life for us, and the spirit of hero-worship which animated this programme seemed to dim more than to emphasise the hero's extraordinary characteristics. Some of Lawrence's friends spoke in this programme, men with heavy, elderly voices, shocking us with the sudden realisation that Lawrence, that symbol of daring youth, has now been dead for nearly 20 years. The use of these elderly voices was perhaps a mistake, since it emphasised the golden memories tendency of the programme: but it was an interesting mistake, for it also emphasised the silent flight of time.

—Loquax

CORRECTION

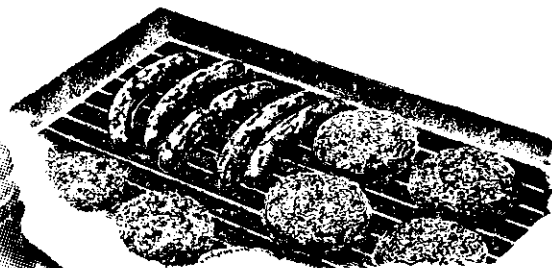
IN a description of the thrones built for the opening of Parliament by the Queen, printed in "The Listener" of January 22, the name of the upholsterer was incorrectly given as H. V. Hay. The correct name is H. V. Ray.

Let's have a Barbecue

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