

BRIEFING NOTES ON RAMPARTS

RAMPARTS magazine was founded in 1962 as a five-times-a-year journal aimed at liberal Catholic intellectuals. It has been financed largely by Mr. Keating, the heir to a real estate fortune and to a larger extent by his wife, the former Helen B. English, whose wealth derives from the US Gypsum Co. It is believed that RAMPARTS' operating losses, which run in the neighborhood of \$450,000 per year, had just about depleted the Keatings' joint estate by July 1965.

In September 1966 Keating announced that he had admitted four other stockholders to the corporation of which he had been sole owner. These are Editor Warren Hinckle, III, 28; Comptroller Joseph Ippolito; Louis Honig, president of a San Francisco advertising agency; and Frederick C. Mitchell, a professor of history at the University of Kansas. The New York Times of February 20, 1967 reports that Irving Laucks, an 85 year-old millionaire associated with the Center for Democratic Institutions at Santa Barbara, has also become a stockholder.

For the first two years RAMPARTS was devoted almost exclusively to aesthetic, literary and religious commentary. Beginning in 1964, RAMPARTS became increasingly preoccupied with political issues at home and abroad--civil rights and the Vietnam war. In July of 1965, Keating made a widely-publicized effort to take the magazine out of its Catholic orientation by establishing a new three-man editorial board comprised of himself; of Arthur A. Cohen who is prominent in Judaic studies in America and a vice-president of the Holt, Rinehart and Winston publishing firm; and William Stringfellow, a New York attorney, author, lecturer and prominent Protestant layman. This attempt to establish a responsible non-sectarian sponsorship was short-lived. Cohen's name disappeared from the masthead in February 1966. Stringfellow dropped off the board in March 1966 and withdrew from all association with the magazine in November 1966.

The staff of the magazine includes Don Duncan, the former Army Special Forces Sargeant who wrote a denunciation of the role of the Green Berets in Vietnam; William Turner; a former special agent of the FBI, who has written articles denouncing J. Edgar Hoover and

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allegations against the Bureau's wire tapping practices; Jean Lacouture, the Southeast Asia correspondent; Jessica Mitford; and Adam Hochschild, the 23 year-old heir to an American Metal Climax Corporation copper fortune.

The Washington correspondents of RAMPARTS are Marcus Raskin and Arthur Waskow, both of whom are on the staff (Raskin is Co-Director) of the Institute for Policy Studies, 1900 Florida Avenue, N. W. One of the RAMPARTS trustees, Eleanor Piel, is married to Gerard Piel, publisher of Scientific American and a trustee of the Institute for Policy Studies.

The Statement of Circulation issued by RAMPARTS as prescribed by law lists the net paid circulation as 79,576 for the October 1966 issue.

The Managing Editor of RAMPARTS is Robert Scheer, 30, who was a leader of an organization called "Fair Play for Cuba" and who participated in stop-the-train protests sponsored by the Vietnam Day Committee in San Francisco. He was an author of the April 1966 article charging that CIA was employing Michigan State University as cover for its activities in Vietnam. Scheer was one of five self-styled "peace candidates" who ran against moderate incumbents for Congress from California. He ran strongly against Jeffrey Cohelan, winning a 45 per cent of the votes in Alameda County's Seventh (Berkeley-Oakland) District. RAMPARTS publisher Keating and board member Stanley K. Scheinbaum were among two other of the "peace candidates" who lost out in the primaries.

The chief targets of RAMPARTS political attack are the leaders of America's moderate democratic establishment, what it calls "corporate liberalism". President Johnson, Senator Robert Kennedy, Secretary McNamara, Secretary Rusk, and Vice-President Humphrey and Ambassador Lodge are all variously branded as "totalitarians" using a "social purpose to justify their militarism". The magazine's anti-war propaganda and sensational exposes presented in a Playboy format are designed to make the magazine attractive and credible to campus radicals. Its goal appears to be to smear the liberals and undermine any faith in reform movements without presenting any positive or even alternative programs of its own.

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