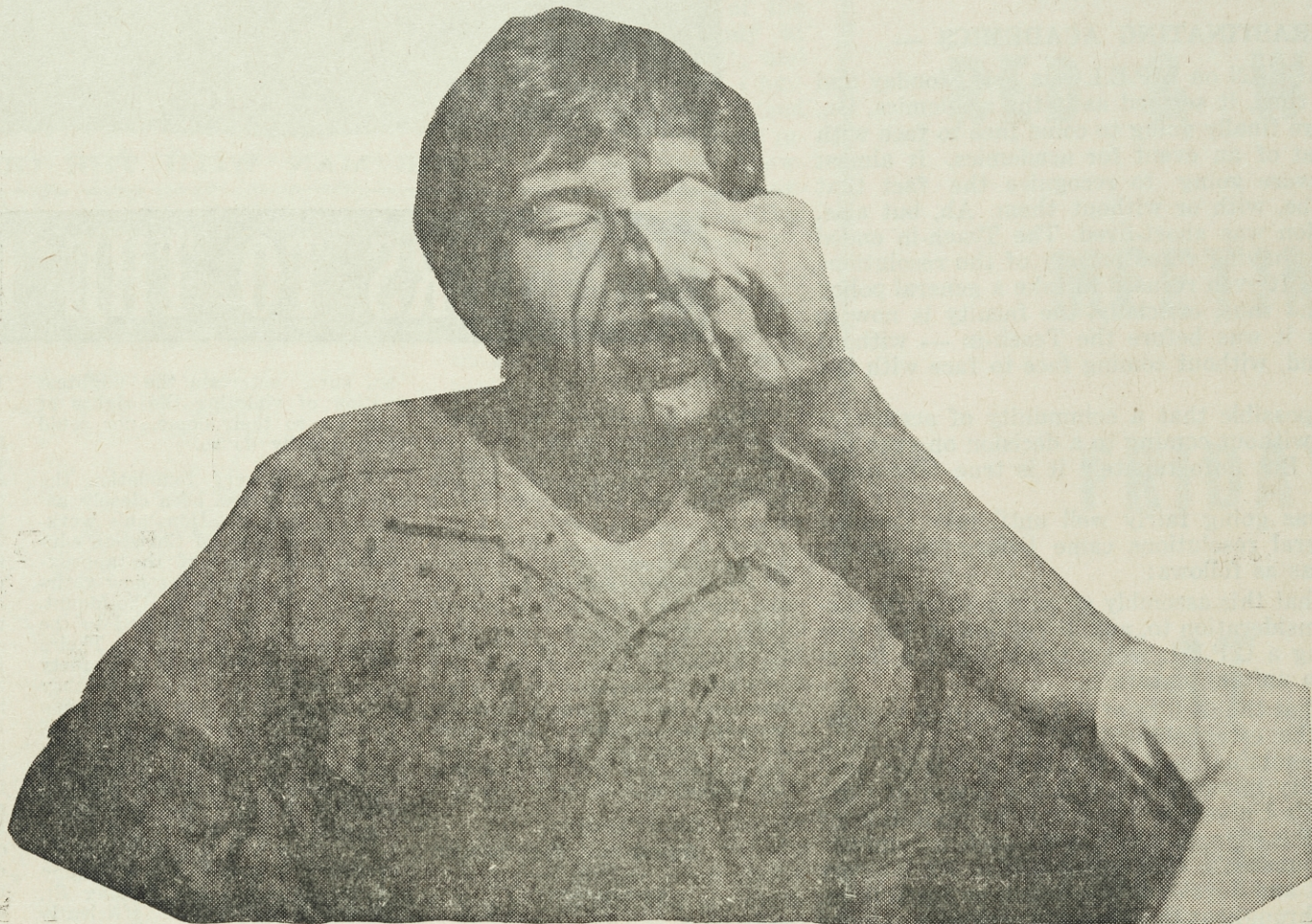
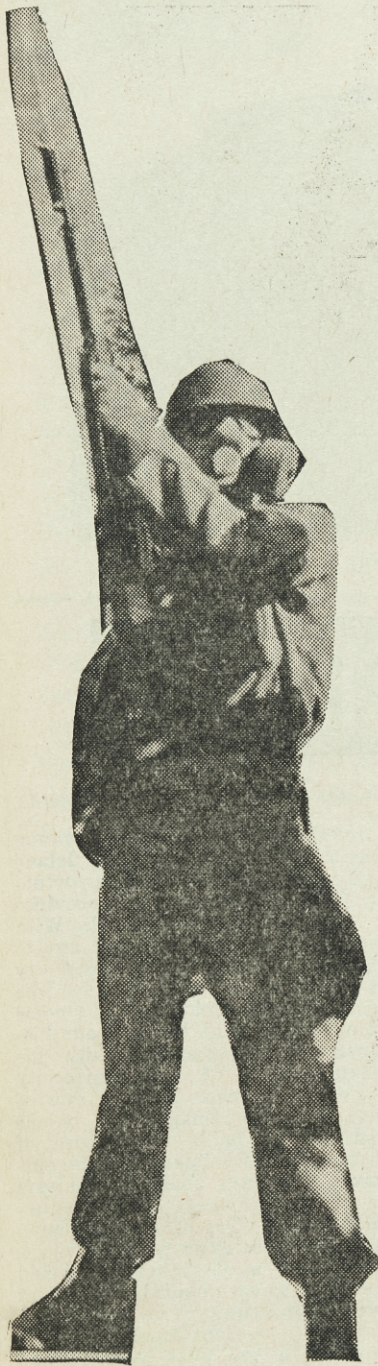


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SPECIAL FEATURE:

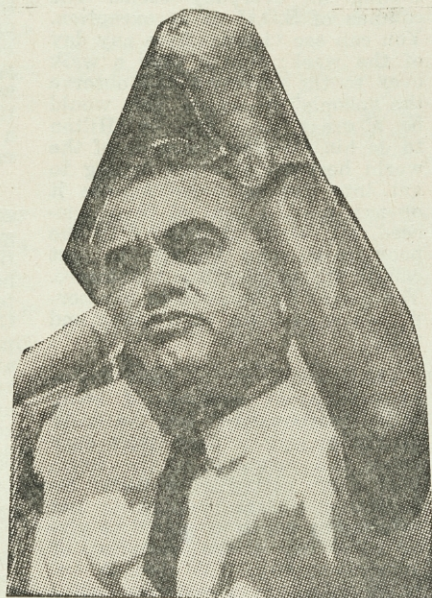
IN IT AMERICA WAS SEEN AS THE GREATEST COUNTRY ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. IN ALMOST EVERY SPHERE OF HUMAN ACTIVITY AMERICA BELIEVED THAT IT WAS BEST....



America once had a dream. A dream originating with the founding fathers of that country. It was to the effect they would build a country where all men could live in freedom. It would be a haven for all the hungry, disillusioned, and oppressed peoples of the world. It would be a land of hope, to which all these people could come, rule themselves, and live in freedom. It was to be a land where all men would be equal regardless of religion, race, or creed. It would be a country based on freedom, liberty, and justice for all. This dream is dying.

America believed in a myth, a myth which derived from the dream. In it America was seen as the greatest country on the face of the earth. In almost every sphere of human activity America believed that it was best. In this myth America's Institutions were considered the best, as was their educational system. They were technologically most advanced, militarily the strongest, without doubt the wealthiest, and their athletes the best in the world. America was freedom, America was equality, America was hope, America was best!

Some of these beliefs are true, some are not. America's ideals are good. Too few of them have been practised. Too few have been realized. Yet belief in the American myth is still widespread. It has been consciously nurtured by those in power. Every American child has this belief instilled in him from the time he can see, hear and read. It is constantly nurtured in them so that by the time they reach maturity they are blinded to the sad realities of some of the defects in their country. This leads to an arrogance which culminates in the belief that what they think is right—IS RIGHT, regardless of what anyone else may think. It results in the growth of a "super-patriotism"—an extreme form of patriotism summed up in the oft-quoted phrase. "My country—right or wrong". There is a danger inherent in this kind of patriotism. It gives rise to the same beliefs that led Germany to disaster in two world wars. It formed the basis of the NAZI defence at Nuremberg, at which time they tried to justify their war-crimes by stating that they were simply following orders for the good of the "Fatherland". It's too bad, for the American myth could have become fact, if the dream had come true.



The American myth is dying. It may have begun with "SPUTNIK" in 1957. The Americans couldn't believe that the Russians had developed a technology that would place a satellite in orbit before them. But they had. I thought this would wake the Americans up... it didn't. They simply revamped their educational system, placed more emphasis on science, and poured in more money for research. It did not awaken them to the basic faults in their society.

Then their problems began to multiply. They became increasingly involved in Viet Nam to the point where they now have an army of 500,000 in that country. I don't know if they are right in doing what they have in Viet Nam. That is not the point right now. The point is that this war has served to divide the American people more than any other. It has created fear in America—fear that the war may grow even larger. The point is that it has developed a sense of frustration—frustration at the thought that the wealthiest, mightiest nation in the world cannot defeat a small country. It is shattering the American myth.

The problem of civil rights and racial prejudice is ripping America apart. The civil rights movement has achieved a great deal for the

Negro in the past ten years, perhaps more than has ever been achieved before. But a great deal remains to be done. The civil rights movement is at a dead stop now. It is going nowhere. An increasing sense of frustration faces the Negro people. The assassination of Martin Luther King has robbed the black man of his most influential, moderate spokesman. It has created a vacuum which black extremists are now filling, and the whites are growing fearful. The idea that a racial prejudice so deeply ingrained could exist in a country devoted to the ideal that all men are created equal, is tearing American society apart. It is destroying the nation. It is killing the American myth.

American society is plagued by crime and violence. The spiralling crime rate is causing great uneasiness. In the city of Dallas, alone, more murders were committed last year than in all of Great Britain. Other types of crime show a corresponding increase. A situation has arisen in which citizens are afraid to walk on city streets after dark. Again fear is stalking American society. Again there is a rising sense of frustration at the authorities' failure to cope with it. It is another blow to the American myth.

The movement among the youth of America, of which the Hippies are a part, is causing widespread concern. The "establishment" cannot understand what the young are trying to achieve. It fails to understand the new values. The young are aware of the defects present in America, and want to correct them. They want to change America. They want to change it into a country which not only espouses the highest ideals but is willing to put them into practice. The young are questioning values and norms that have long been accepted by American society. They are reacting against the tendencies, in society and government, to treat persons as "things". They represent a reaction against growing materialism. They have no desire to accumulate vast quantities of material goods. They see wrongs that must be righted and are not willing to turn a blind eye. They are not prepared to say; "My country—right or wrong". They want change, and this is causing fear in the establishment. They have different values and goals, so the majority frowns on them.

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