

SESSION 2012

AGRÉGATION
CONCOURS EXTERNE

Section : LANGUES VIVANTES ÉTRANGÈRES
ANGLAIS

COMMENTAIRE DE TEXTE EN ANGLAIS

Durée : 6 heures

L'usage de tout ouvrage de référence, de tout dictionnaire et de tout matériel électronique (y compris la calculatrice) est rigoureusement interdit.

Dans le cas où un(e) candidat(e) repère ce qui lui semble être une erreur d'énoncé, il (elle) le signale très lisiblement sur sa copie, propose la correction et poursuit l'épreuve en conséquence.

De même, si cela vous conduit à formuler une ou plusieurs hypothèses, il vous est demandé de la (ou les) mentionner explicitement.

NB : Hormis l'en-tête détachable, la copie que vous rendrez ne devra, conformément au principe d'anonymat, comporter aucun signe distinctif, tel que nom, signature, origine, etc. Si le travail qui vous est demandé comporte notamment la rédaction d'un projet ou d'une note, vous devrez impérativement vous abstenir de signer ou de l'identifier.

Tournez la page S.V.P.

One must look briefly at the street environment of downtown Chicago in the week of the convention, for as America goes on to learn more about mobs and street control, it will have to learn to separate out the manipulators from the manipulated in crowd masses. In Chicago for the first time, all the elements of American crowd dynamics were available. They were the following:

5 § First, the Negroes. Over the previous three years they had proven the most violent of crowd masses. But in Chicago, blacks had been neutralized by the vigorous political roots of the Daley machine, by strict police control, by the absence of a real sense of black injustice, and, above all, by Negro disaffection from the elitist white radicals. In Chicago, fortunately, the blacks decided to stand off and, quite sensibly, let the white radicals do their own thing.

10 § There were, as always, the curious – the gawkers, the souvenir-hunters, the peerers, the simple-minded who always want to be there where it is happening, who want to be able to yell, “I seen it, I seen it myself.”

15 § Then there were the crazies. The crazies sprout everywhere in today’s world, but in America one of their covering titles is “Yippies” (for Youth International Party.) The Yippies are a giant put-on, a visual pun, a strolling farce of lost and forlorn people seeking identity who wear beards, or stovepipe hats, or Australian bandoliers, or walk barefoot carrying their belongings on their back, or sleep in the open rain. They are a sad people, and when one examines the seasonal clusters where they come to roost, in Cambridge or San Francisco or New York, tears come to the eyes at their diseases (mainly venereal), their health (decayed from malnutrition and drugs) and the disturbances, rarely dangerous, of their minds. The crazies have resigned from the corporate society of America, but nurse a manic wit for mocking society which intrigues the media. The crazies – who are not stupid, only crazy – have learned the power of the mimeograph machine to rouse press attention, to entice television coverage to their happenings.

25 Only three kinds of people take the crazies seriously – the police; television; and those calculating organizers who can manipulate them as a skirmish line into the forefront of confrontation, to be pulped and bloodied by the cops, as Turkish generals used *fantassins* in peek-a-boo pants to meet the first rush of the enemy.

To Chicago the crazies had come, not to make trouble but to make fun and stage a “Festival of Life.”

30 § There are then, next, in most American mobs, the innocents. These are people whose morality urges them to stand witness for a cause, to prove their manhood and conscience by exposing their bodies to brutality and beating.

35 In Chicago, most of the innocents were those who, ignoring McCarthy’s directives, came there because they felt McCarthy spoke for the cause of peace and that they must protect both the man and the cause.

40 § There are, last, always in any mob and the most critical part of it, those who seek to control, to move, to marshal and mobilize it – to fuse it under their own direction and conscript the innocents, gawkers and crazies alike into an unthinking mass of bodies, whose emotions, once captured, will make them the unwitting instruments of a few. It is necessary for any control group to have, at once, a cause and an adversary.

45 In Chicago the control group was David Dellinger's National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. The cause, peace. And the adversary, the police of Chicago, who played the role of adversary in a manner no earlier anticipation of expected stupidity could have forecast. The Mobilization sought confrontation; bloodshed would serve their purpose; the Chicago police gave it to them. Only philosophers can apportion guilt between them; in this reporter's judgment, both were equally guilty.

Theodore H. WHITE. *The Making of the President 1968*. A narrative history of American politics in action. New York: Pocket Book, 1970 (1969, Atheneum edition), pp. 356-8.