

Sir,

I would like to make some remarks concerning the article 'THE NEW BASQUES' published in TIME (7th, April 1967, page 41).

Authorship. I was astonished by many of its stereotyped sentences -well known in Spain since long ago-<sup>because</sup> they make the article very similar to an statement which strangely enough, might have been written by a member of the BLACK AND TANS of sad memory during the Irish revolt. The article is another mistake by another Ugly American by admitting wholly the Spanish centralist position.

Regarding independence you the Americans were the first in giving the European countries the exemplary way.

If you consider Bolivar a Spaniard, you must admit then that Washington and Jefferson were British. Can an American write such a thing? ...or perhaps a man with "the unpronounceable name?"

Achievements. Ours was one of the oldest democracies in Europe. The Castilian fell in the XVI century, the Aragonese some scores afterwards, the Catalan in the beginning of the XVIII century and the Basque in 1839.

Mr. Anthony Eden stated that the Basque Government was the most civilized of all contenders during the Spanish Civil War. You will be surprised to know that the real conciliatory spirit was present in many Basque priests many years before now.

Something concerning Elcano the first world circumnavigator, the hunting of whales and the Order of the Jesuits may interest the author of the article to begin a new task. The subject about achievements may thus prove to be unexpectedly rich, forgetting the 'berets' which are relatively new among the EUSKARIANS.

The Basques were the greatest contributors to the colonization of Philippines by Legazpi, Paraguay by Irala and of Argentina, Uruguay and Chile in a massive form.

As for Saint Francis Xavier, he was never a Spaniard. Born in Free Navarre, educated in Paris he became later a Portuguese citizen as you can easily verify reading a deep German Scholar: Father Schurhammer.

Language: Literature and politics should now be <sup>some</sup> different fields. This may help to remember that while G.B. Shaw was an English literary figure De Valera obtained the Irish Independence.

To call the Basque language 'a monstrosity' even quoting it, requires to have a thorough knowledge of it. After reading this definition I have gathered that the author knows as much Basque as George Borrow knew Mandchurian, Unamuno Danish or Urdu myself.

Pío Baroja deplored not to know the Basque language or Euskera in order to write some poetry in Basque. Unamuno knew only a little bit of the Biscayan dialect and nothing whatsoever of all the literature, richer without comparison in other dialects.

I must say that the language may be lost as a price for liberty either in Religion (as told by Lloyd George to Michael Collins comparing Wales to Ireland) or in Politics.

The author of the article mentions an old Basque Legend which said that the Devil could not learn Euskera. If he is willing to know something on this subject he can read the diabolical sentences by Victor Hugo, Heine and Merejkovski in the speech of a Milanese wit, as well as a Basque magic glossary published in Pamplona. This reading will prove quite the opposite. Is it an advantage for the language?

Federalism.- Wilhelm von Humboldt (my great hobby) Lord Carnarvon, Victor Hugo, Sarmiento and Steer, all foreigners, were far better informed about this subject than the author of the article.

I fought for conciliation and mine was the first signature in Bilbao of the party of Ortega Gasset.

I was and continue being a federal but know- as many foreigners do- that the Basques and the Catalonians are the most progressive and Europeans in Spain and that many of them prefer- and perhaps the majority will in a short time - to be rather Europeans than oppressed by a despotic power like the franquist.

It is difficult to change one's opinion at the sixties and this is my case, deprived as I am of any political ambition.

One of the self-called NEW Basques published in Spain some months ago that the Basque Country gets back only the 15% of the money it pays in taxes from the Spanish Government.

Opposition.- Liars like the archduke Otto von Habsburg (a would-be emperor) who wrote that Galíndez was alive in Santiago de Chile after having been murdered by Frujillo was one of those who opposed the Basque nationalism.

Unamuno held several positions - very well paid by the Republic- and lied in Parliament concerning the language persecution in the Spanish schools. (De esto y de aquello. 1st. volume, pages 566 and 570).

He writes in NIEBHA page 98 what I often heard him in Paris 'El olvido involuntario suele ser una grosería' To lie unconsciously, was far worse than to do it consciously, for him.

Time has gone by and now no one dares to say that the Basque people destroyed in arson the city of Guernica. Genial Picasso's painting has greatly contributed to this.

I consider people like Ramiro de Maeztu like pharaonic mummies of the old Escorial and the new Valle de los Caídos, something so dead and terrific as a Church in Rome orned with the bones of the late members of a religious Order, bones which decorate and are displayed in large amounts.

It was easy to foresee the slumping of the Spanish University and Prof. Lain Entralgo of Madrid, a former franquist, has verified it crudely. The same did Ortega Gasset when speaking of the regime of the 'donkeys with tonsure' referred to the priests who appeared to be the lords of all science, art and philosophy.

Areilza, a new Basque, protested against the refusal or conditioning of the Universities in the Basque country.

Unamuno attacked the idea of opening a University in the Basque contry fiercely. So did Lequerica.

France.- Hitler was Franco's stepfather. The Basques were for the allies during both world wars. The case was quite different with the Spanish Tories. The Spanish admirers of Hitler will neither forget nor forgive that the Basque people led Franco to a miscalculation on how long his 'one week glorious movement' would last. This memory has fostered their frantic hatred towards the Basques. It represents the pre-Conciliatory spirit.

The extremely bad policy followed by Franco, the deterioration of the patriotic feeling in whose name so many awful crimes have been committed, the loss of the narrow fringe of Spanish Morocco, the evacuation of Tangier at the least Anglo-Saxon insinuation, the loss of rights of the Spaniards as citizens as compared to the commodities of the millions of tourists, and the high standard of life seen in the countries where perhaps a million of Spaniards go to work -and have to pay their tax to the Spanish State for going abroad- the admission by the Catholic Church of some principles of the French Revolution in the Vatican Council, etc.etc. are very well measured within.

In my opinion the preservation of the Spanish State as it has been since 1898 is very difficult indeed.

Franco executed many of the ideas of Menéndez Pelayo and of Unamuno who was in a real quandary in 1936. Franquist in the beginning, enemy in his speech of Salamanca in September 1936, he was (I am quoting his own words) a mute ox as he foolishly called the boy scouts (bueyes cautos) till his death in December of the same year.

The Spanish ruling spirit is inquisitorial, relaxing for some scores of years and exploding epyleptically then, as H. Taine explained.

I have always thought the Americans would defend the Wilsonian principles as they did for Poland and Ireland.

Basque and Catalonians are surely more important than Estonia or Latvia or Lituania or Albania or Luxemburg.

Before Franco's movement there were only 16 Communist deputies in Madrid. After Franco's movement Communism sptead like powder in the left field. Haven't the members of this party always been present in every world revolution since 1921? But what were these 16 deputies in face of 200 in France and 200 in Italy after 1945?

I am a Catholic but think that Franco or Peron or Salazar or Trujillo 'Christian Dictators' cannot be the models for the European future. Their common Erastian heresy is in my opinion the principal cause of the present great difficulties in the Catholic Church.

The Cardinal Verdier of Paris ~~xxx~~ was a member of the League of Friends of the Basques together with Maritain, Mauriac, Bernanos, Herriot and many other prominent personalities. He stated before the second World war that ~~xxx~~ Franco's behaviour during the Spanish war would bring serious troubles and difficulties to the Catholic Church both in Spain and in Europe. This has become true.

Franco must often say to himself the following words uttered by Louis XIV to Blancas in the time of Ramillies and Malplaquet: 'It seems that God has forgotten the many favours that he owes me'.

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Leque azkar ta onari:

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No olvide que Physic, ni s  
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J. Garate

23 - orriella, 1967.