

What Does “Fifth Estate” Mean?

Fifth Estate history

Fifth Estate Collective

2016

People always ask about the meaning of our publication’s odd name. It is odd, and for our purposes over the last thirty years or so, a particularly problematic one. The word Estate in the title refers to the three powerful French Estates of the Realm at the time of the 1789 revolution—the aristocracy, clergy, and common people. A wag in the 1920s quipped that the popular press exercised such power over public opinion, it was literally a fourth estate.

This publication’s founder saw the name of a Los Angeles coffeehouse where he hung out in 1965, apparently one up on the Fourth Estate, and brought it back to Detroit for his new paper.

We’ve been saddled with a doubly inappropriate name for five decades, given our opposition to both the quantification and division of life into different and competing categories, and to estates of any kind. Although we’ve considered changing the name, it signifies a continuity we don’t want to lose.

The Canadian Broadcasting Company’s national TV news program began a magazine format segment in 1977 using the same name. We wrote them suggesting that since we had been publishing under that title since 1965, they should find a different one. They never responded to our letter.

A Connecticut-based musical group with our name had a 1967 rocked-up hit version of, “Ding-Dong! The Witch Is Dead,” which didn’t help.

Nor did the film taking that title for the 2013 biopic about Wikileaks and its founder, Julian Assange.

Perhaps, though, the name has gained a legitimacy now that it generically refers to bloggers, journalists, and non-mainstream media outlets.

That would be us.

Adapted from an article in the *Fifth Estate* 40th anniversary issue, #368–369 Spring-Summer 2005

THE FIFTH ESTATE

dedicated to common sense

THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON
THE FBI AND U of M
THE C.I.A. AND VIETNAM
REPORT FROM NATCHEZ, MISS.

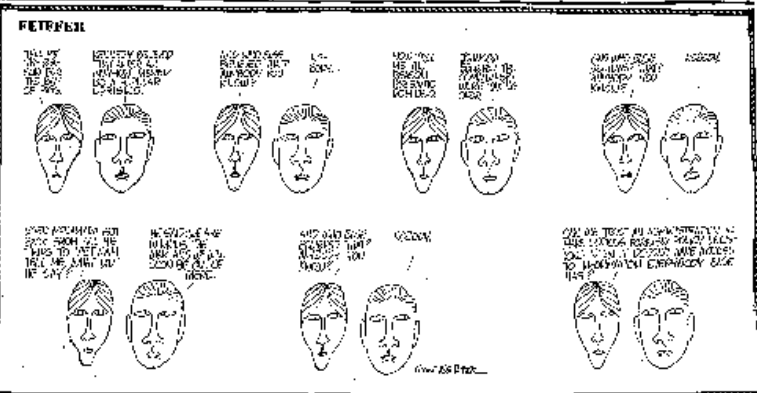
DEPOSITED NEW REGISTRATION
 DE-WASHDC NOVEMBER
 November 19 - December 2
 ISSUE NO. 1

10¢

Bob Dylan; In Memoriam

Bob Dylan took his three minutes at the "New York Bob Dylan" in his concert at the Music Hall on Oct. 24. The first half of the concert was the traditional Dylan. Following the intermission, the audience was surprised by Dylan's willingness to play guitar, surrounded by his rock & roll guitar.

The three songs, "Masters Blues," required in order of "The New York Bob Dylan" to which he replied, "Well, what do you want to see?" After a few unavoidable remarks "Masters Blues" required in order of "The New York Bob Dylan" to which he replied, "Well, what do you want to see?" After a few unavoidable remarks "Masters Blues" required in order of "The New York Bob Dylan" to which he replied, "Well, what do you want to see?"



Bob Dylan's music was not so much of a musical revolution as it was a cultural one. He has set the same tone throughout the United States.

The question which comes to the mind of many is simply "Why? Why the change?" Dylan states, "I don't have to prove anything to anyone, and I don't care who knows where I'm at - I don't have to care on to these things and I'm not interested in them."

Bob Dylan feels he can "take it" in rock & roll, because he can't.

JOHN FROST

ACLU BLASTS DRAFT AS PUNISHMENT

The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan (ACLU) has condemned the proposed draft of Detroit Arthur A. Rolke, state Solicitor General, as a device to punish dissent.

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PRISON NOTES

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (AP)—Senator Stephen J. Young, Democrat from Ohio, said Thursday that he has learned that the Central Intelligence Agency hired persons to disguise as Communist and Socialist sympathizers in Vietnam by wearing false names.

The C.I.A. and Representative Cornelius E. Gallagher, Democrat of New Jersey, said it was on Thursday night Senator Young denied having said that the report came from a CIA source, but he said that he got it from an American military officer whom he did not name.

Investigator, Mr. Young said, he mentioned through the CIA policy that it employed some South Vietnamese nationals to pose as Vietcong and I left a bad view of that.

Mr. Young, who recently returned from Vietnam, had at first said no more than a CIA man told him the CIA hired South Vietnamese who dressed as Vietcong, then corrected such data as killing men and raping women.

Mr. Young, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he would ask that group to investigate CIA activities. Mr. Gallagher has also recently visited South Vietnam.

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JOE HILL; A TRIBUTE

Labor history scholar of Maine State of York State University is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the execution of Joe Hill. American's next President, Roosevelt and the "New Deal" era.

The program will be held at 8 p.m. Friday, November 19, in the Hill Auditorium, National Conference Center, located at 1000 State Street, Portland, Maine. The program will be held at 8 p.m. Friday, November 19, in the Hill Auditorium, National Conference Center, located at 1000 State Street, Portland, Maine.

NEW LEFT

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