

HOT SPRINGS [Garland]

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George McGovern, the 1972 Democratic presidential candidate who was defeated in 1980 for re-election as a senator from South Dakota, has a new job. On Monday, McGovern, who has spent the last year on

the lecture circuit, began teaching a course on religion and politics in America at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

He attributed his 1980 defeat to a political "massacre" organized by the religious right and conservative groups who targeted certain liberals for defeat.

He and such fellow liberals as Birch Bayh of Indiana and Frank Church of Idaho were caught off guard in the "massacre," McGovern said.

But of the "new right," McGovern said, "I think they crested in 1980. I don't think they'll be as effective in 1982. The right wing doesn't have the juicy liberal targets to shoot at in 1982.

In his 25 years in publishing, Byron Dobell has been senior editor of Life, editor in chief of Bookworld, managing editor of New York, assistant director of planning for Time-Life Books and, in three separate tours, managing editor, executive editor and editor in chief of Esquire.

Now at the age of 54, Dobell is taking on a new challenge — editor of American Heritage, the bimonthly devoted to American history. On Feb. 1, he will replace Geoffrey C. Ward, who has been editor since 1977 and is leaving to write books.

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At his Esquire office, Dobell said: "American Heritage is a kind of an institution, and I hope to give it what institutions need from time to time — a great burst of energy. It's a terrific magazine and I want to renew and revitalize it."

He told of tentative plans to increase the magazine's frequency, to accept ads for the first time in its history, to extend the recent push to newsstand sales and to put more emphasis on 20th-century history.

"The 20th century is beginning to wind down," he said, "and people want to know how we got where we are."

A follow-up: After four years of legal wrangling, Frania Ty Lee can now collect the \$9.2 million she won in a case in which she maintained she was once secretly married to the billionaire H.L. Hunt.

A federal judge ordered Wednesday that the money be placed in a bank in Shreveport, La., and Mrs. Lee was expected to have it transferred to her account in Georgia.

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Appeals went as far as the
United States Supreme Court,
on Dec. 18, when the Hunt
estate was ordered to pay off
Mrs. Lee, who lives in Atlanta.
A technicality held up the pay-
ment until a final order was
issued Monday.

Mrs. Lee, who said she had
married the Texas oilman in
1925, will have to turn over 10
percent of the \$9.2 million to
the Baton Rouge law firm that
represented her and another
\$49,000 to an Atlanta attorney
who was called in for help.

He has been writing Holly-
wood scripts with no more than
prospective success, and he
has a television project in the
works that he cannot talk about
yet. So what is a fellow to do?

If he is Mort Sahl, he digs
out a V-neck sweater, tucks a
newspaper under his arm and
steps on stage to do what he
has been doing off and on for
more than three decades —
skewering the mighty with
mordant wit.

This time, the stage is at
Marty's in Manhattan, where
the humorist is appearing
through Feb. 6. The formula is
the same one Sahl devised for
San Francisco's hungry i in
1950; only the names in the
news have changed.

President Reagan, he sug-
gests, won only because of the
public's disenchantment with
Jimmy Carter.

"If Reagan had run unop-
posed," he said, "he would
have been defeated."

Sahl, who is not above recy-
cling Cold War material
("Every time the Russians
would throw an American in
jail, Nixon would retaliate by
throwing an American in jail")
gives equal time to liberals, a
group, he suggests, who help
assure repeated defeats by
their rallying cry — "We're
going to lose."

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