

ARTS & LETTERS

with such absolute certainty that you can always steer by the shape that's in your head, and never mind the one that's before your eyes."

Mark Twain's greatest work, writes Burde, was that which "drew upon intuitive memory rather than studied observations." There was a connection between writing and piloting—both require a special quality of memory—and Clemens dreaded the thought of failing as a writer and being forced to make his living again as a pilot. He was unable to sustain his imaginative identification with Horace Bixby (who disappears from the last three of the seven "Old Times" articles), and the series ended after seven, rather than the promised nine, articles.

Clemens finally returned to the river in 1882, hoping to collect enough material to fill out the "Old Times" articles to book length (*Life On the Mississippi*, 1883). He said he merely wanted to verify distances, but Clemens was really admitting, says Burde, "that his intuitive memory [had] failed him and he must return to direct observation—to the shape before his eyes."

OTHER NATIONS

*Too Many People,
Too Few Jobs*

"Indonesia: Testing Time for the 'New Order'" by Seth Lipsky and Raphael Pura, in *Foreign Affairs* (Fall 1978), 428 East Preston St., Baltimore, Md. 21202.

Just ten years ago, Indonesia's President Suharto scrapped the chaotic "guided democracy" of his predecessor, Sukarno, and ended Indonesia's flirtation with China and the Soviet Union in favor of closer ties with Japan and the West. Now, as Suharto, 57, begins his third—and probably final—five-year term, his "New Order" faces severe tests, according to Lipsky and Pura, of the *Asian Wall Street Journal*.

Initially, Suharto brought a measure of political stability and economic progress. Prospects for rapid development, financed by oil revenues, looked good. Then came a worldwide recession in 1975. Pertamina, the mismanaged and overextended state oil company, foundered. Today, with oil no longer viewed as a "magic balm," Indonesia still faces tough, down-to-earth problems: too many people, not enough food and jobs.

Population growth is the biggest challenge, the authors report, but there has been minor progress. In eight years, the overall annual population growth rate has slipped from 2 percent to 1.8 percent. Heavy concentrations of people on Java and Bali remain a grave burden; the two islands, totaling slightly more than a third the area of Japan, may hold more than 110 million people in 20 years.

The food and job situation is even less encouraging. Indonesia has become the world's largest rice importer (\$700 million worth in 1977), while more than 40 percent of the rural labor force and 20 percent of

OTHER NATIONS

urban workers are unemployed or underemployed.

"If Suharto is on the spot now, so is the West," argue Lipsky and Pura. Indonesia needs \$7.6 billion in foreign aid to help finance its current five-year plan. It welcomes foreign investment, but not the "quick buck" attitude shown by some U.S. investors in the early 1970s. The internal mismanagement, corruption, and bureaucratic red tape of the military-backed regime in Jakarta cannot be overlooked. However, the authors conclude, "It would seem a major setback for the West if Suharto's New Order, which gambled on the West, were to fall short of its goal because the West fell short of its promise."

China's Economy: Prospects Good

"Industrial Development in China: 1967-76 and 1976-78" by Jan S. Prybla, in *Challenge* (Sept.-Oct. 1978), 901 North Broadway, White Plains, N.Y. 10603.

China's new "moderate" leaders have branded their ousted "radical" rivals (the "Gang of Four") as "economic illiterates" whose policies cost China \$60 billion in industrial output during the turbulent 1974-76 period.

Actually, writes Prybla, a Pennsylvania State University economist, the Chinese economy grew steadily from 1966 through 1975, not counting 1967 when output dropped because of the political chaos caused by Mao Tse-tung's Cultural Revolution. (Except for coal, iron, and steel, industrial output increased at an annual rate of 10 percent, according to CIA estimates.) The collapse of the radicals' economic program—with its emphasis on greater democracy in the work place and a narrowing of wage differentials between skilled and unskilled workers—was due more to factional struggles than to any inherent unworkability

Despite the turmoil of the last decade, China's economy performed well under leaders branded "economic illiterates" by the country's present rulers.

Adapted from Challenge

