ture: it is as much a matter of building a social movement as of revised political mechanics. Only a strong national party of industrial and farm labor, Negroes, and the liberal segment of the middle class can provide the power base for the “Coming Political Breakthrough” that Bowles and Schlesinger have been predicting. The earlier proposals of this paper—for civil rights, redistribution of income, economic democracy, and social balance programs—will have as an important by-product the strengthening of popular political capacity—in awareness, skills, wealth. Only as the organizations of people are given the support of public policy will they be effective counter weights to the organizations of capital that threaten to re-combine political and economic power in a new elite. As Daniel Bell has suggested, political action by labor can do more, and more equitably, than collective bargaining to raise sub-standard wages and assure full employment and full purchasing power by affecting fiscal and monetary policies. The NAACP’s judicial politics also need to be followed up by Negro participation in other arenas of social change. The sit-in movement—spontaneous in origin and with widespread personal involvement—points the way to effective political action as well. The conviction that radical change is necessary and possible, it has now been demonstrated, can itself be the spark to ignite a significant social movement.

PREDICTION

If N beats K
Or K beats N
The electorate is bound to win
The blessings of a four-year grin,

A tusky joy—from film and page
Teeth meet the issues of the age.

Hail, autumn sun, by whose bleaching grows
Still whiter the reassuring rows

Till harvest time (no relation
To the dragon’s dental semination)! 

When N beats K—
Not grim Nikita-You-Know-Who,
Just Smiling Jack, or Bob, to you—
Or K beats N
Two faces smile in one again.

HAROLD ROSENBERG