



New S.S. 344

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Encl. 308

The Editors,
Time Magazine,
Time and Life Building,
Rockefeller Center,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK. 10020

Re: Semantography Series No. 344
"The Interabang, a symbol idiocy".

Gentlemen,

You may, or may not have heard about me, but you will hear more about me in the near future. According to the testimony of eminent scholars I am the first man who has realised the dream of the great Leibnitz, the "Symbolis Universalis" (see the attached reprint of an article that has already appeared in 2 American magazines and is scheduled to appear in more).

And on the basis of this my achievement I declare the idiotic "Interabang" symbol (a combination of ? and ! thus ?) (Time May 31, Page 24) a useless contraption thought of by the American Type Founders Co. in order to sell a new type. It is useless, because its accommodation on normal typewriters would occupy a much needed key. It is idiotic because the very same meaning can be expressed in different ways to different statements, namely by using first the question mark (?) and then the exclamation mark (!) to express an exclamation about a question thus ?! Or, it can be reversed to claim attention to a statement by using first the exclamation mark (!) and then question the statement itself thus !?

But the height of silly symbolic semantics is to call this idiotic new symbol an "Interabang." Apart from the trend to single syllables in language, that salesmen of the American Type Founders Co. use the word "inter" meaning between for the ending of a sentence. And as to "abang" Webster is silent as to its meaning. All that remains is "A Bang!" I protest!

You may, if you want, condense my protest to a "letter to the editor". In any case, this my protest goes into my Semantography Series No. 344 titled "The Interabang, a symbol idiocy." The Semantography Series is collected by great libraries around the world.

Sincerely yours,

Encl. Semantography Series
No. 308 "One Writing
for One World".

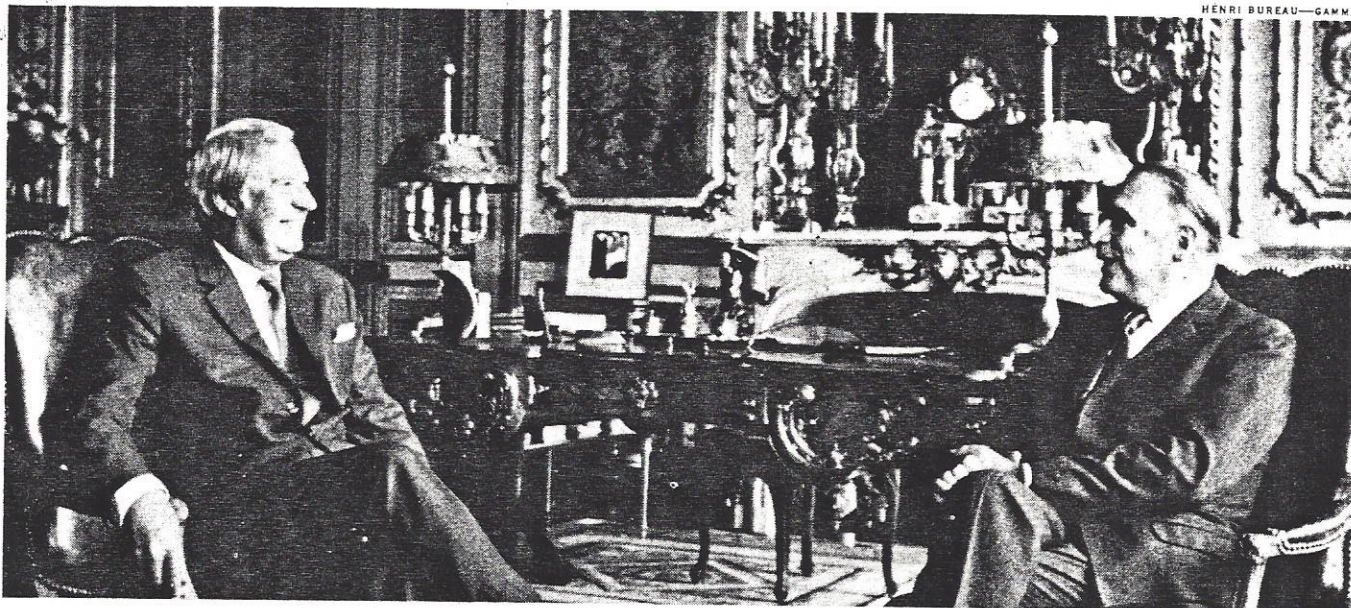
Then, behind a procession of aides and bodyguards, came Heath and Pompidou, walking in step into the gift and crystal chandelier of the ballroom. Pompidou signaled Heath to precede him into the room. The two men seated themselves in Louis XIV armchairs on a raised dais, with Heath at the President's right. "We are well aware that the questions we are discussing come at an important moment in the history of our

that wider unity. I believe that only in this way can we secure the future peace of our Continent and end forever the quarrels which have brought such misfortune to Europe. The conference was scheduled for 7 p.m., but the hour came and went and nothing happened. Some reporters loitered about the palace while others went out into the beautiful Elysée garden which was covered with rich green lawns and chestnut trees in the final blaze of bloom. A light, misty rain cooled the grass and brought the dark blue of the sky and the dark blue of the uniforms of the Garde Républicaine. At 6.30, loudspeakers crackled that the two men would appear at 7. British journalists began to fret about some unexpected foulty. A French correspondent protested: "The general was always on time even when he said no."

Opening the Way.

The conference for the French foreign policy had been held in the Elysée Palace. During the night, the British and French Chiefs of State, Geoffrey Rippon and Pompidou, had been seated on three large sofas, with British entry and French preference.

The conference, however, is the first time that the use of quotation marks in the title of a document introduced in 1967 by the American Type Founders Co. the symbol of exclamation and of questioning.



HEATH & POMPIDOU IN THE ELYSÉE PALACE

Europe: The British Are Coming?*

It was the same elegant ballroom in which Charles de Gaulle had twice scuttled British applications for entry into the Common Market. Appropriately, many of the journalists who had witnessed those historic pronouncements were among the 300 newsmen who gathered at the Elysée Palace one evening last week. Seated on gilt chairs with barricades of cameramen and TV crews behind them, they waited for the appearance of Britain's Prime Minister Edward Heath and France's President Georges Pompidou.

The conference was scheduled for 6 p.m., but the hour came and went and nothing happened. Some reporters wandered about the palace while others went out into the beautiful Elysée garden, which was covered with rich green umbrellas of chestnut trees in the final dazzle of bloom. A light, misty rain coated the grass and clung to the dark blue jackets of the Garde Républicaine. At 6:30, loudspeakers crackled that the two men would appear at 7. British journalists began to fret about some unexpected "difficulty." A French correspondent grumbled: "The general was always on time, even when he said no."

Opening the Way

Then, behind a procession of aides and bodyguards, came Heath and Pompidou, walking in step into the gilt and crystal glitter of the ballroom. Pompidou signaled Heath to precede him into the room. The two men seated themselves in Louis XIV armchairs on a raised dais, with Heath at the President's right.

"We are both aware that the questions we are debating come at an important moment in the history of our

nations and in the history of Europe," said Pompidou, speaking without text or notes. "Many believed that Great Britain is not European and that it wanted to get into the Common Market only to destroy it," he explained in a disarmingly candid reference to the justification that De Gaulle had twice used for vetoing Britain's earlier application to join the European Economic Community. "Many others also believed that France was prepared to use all means of veto to prevent Great Britain from getting into the Common Market. Well, ladies and gentlemen," said Pompidou, now glancing at Heath, "tonight you see before you two men who are convinced that this is not the case." Then, in a convoluted manner, Pompidou added: "It would be unreasonable to think that an agreement cannot be reached between Britain and the Common Market in the talks beginning in June."

Ted Heath, who made his maiden speech in Parliament 21 years ago on the subject of European unity, responded: "I have long believed that Europe must grow steadily together in unity, and that Britain should be a part of that wider unity. I believe that only in this way can we secure the future peace of our Continent and end forever the quarrels which have brought such suffering upon our countries in the past."

There was no misinterpreting the words. Britain, having spurned Europe 14 years ago when the Treaty of Rome was concluded, and having twice been spurned in turn, has now been invited to join the Common Market. WE'RE ON OUR WAY! headlined London's *Daily Mirror* after the two-day talks had ended. At the star-shaped Bâtiment Ber-

laymont in Brussels, one jubilant member of the nine-man EEC Commission cried: "There is absolutely no doubt about it—Britain is coming in!"

The Heath-Pompidou understanding opened the way not only for British admission but also for entry by Ireland, Denmark and Norway. By 1973, the Six are likely to become the Ten, with a combined population of 253 million and a \$660 billion gross national product, second only to America's. Later, that number may well be enhanced by the association of other West European nations, such as Portugal, Sweden and Spain. There is still a possibility, however, that the British Parliament will rebuke Heath and reject membership. Moreover, there is no denying that with or without Britain, Europe is decades away from achieving the political and economic cohesion that would make it a truly united or a confederated power. Even so, if Europe does eventually find unity, the Paris meeting will loom as one of the major landmarks.

Hospitable Climate

The groundwork for the Heath-Pompidou sessions had been laid the week before in Brussels. During an all-night meeting, the Foreign Ministers of the Six and British Chief Negotiator Geoffrey Rippon reached working arrangements on three major points concerning British entry. They were preferential

* The interabang, shown here, is the first new punctuation mark to be devised for print since the adoption of quotation marks in the late 17th century. Introduced in 1967 by the American Type Founders Co., the interabang is intended to express a simultaneous quality of exclamation and of questioning.