

This is The BRUTUS BULLETIN #54

which is a newsletter of postal Diplomacytm brought to you way too often by John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 526 Q, Moore, OK 73165 at the rate of 12/\$4. Someday I will learn to say "No" to good letters, games, press, and filler, but not so far. Maybe next time. Speaking of which, #55 may well come out later this month, as I have a number of letters here from various folks that deserve to be published, but for which there is no room in this one. So, since all I have is the COVER of this issue for general BS and notes, here we go. How about starting with some hobby news?

Francois Cuerrier is the new CDO Ombudsman, taking over from John Leeder. Francois produces PASSCHENDAELE and hides out at 2210-160 Chapel Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8P5

The Postal Diplomacy Tournament only needs a handful of players to reach the 49 minimum to begin. Cost is \$20 for 3 games, \$5 of which will go into the cash prize fund. Write Bob Sergeant, 3242 Lupine Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46224.

VOLKERWANDERUNG had a nice Christmas issue that turns out to have been a FAKE. If you were insulted by an entry in that issue, or dropped Bob because of the cutting-trades note, PLEASE put Bob back on your list like I did. He still does want to trade! Bob Arnett, 1500 Waterway Circle, Chesapeake, VA 23320.

Want to play Buddy TRETICK in a game? He is signed up for Game #7 in Bill LaFosse's TORONTO TELEGRAM, \$4 gamefee. Bill is also considering starting a cassette-Diplomacy game, \$10 fee. Bill is at 126 Bay St #24, Trenton, Ontario K8V 1H8. Get "Bernie".

GRAUSTARK is having a final "5¢ sale", selling old issues at 5¢ each, which is less than the postage to bring them to you at 3d class rates. Buy a bunch so John will lose less. 10 issue minimum purchase. GRAUSTARK will be 17 years old come May; it's writings in the political sphere are wierd, nutty, and worse, but often so ludicrous that its funny. The rest is well written, and at 5¢ a throw, how bad can they be? I suggest you send John a dollar or two and ask for the most recent 40 issues. All from #291 on are available except for 300, 318, 320, 346. #410 is the current issue.

Robert SACKS, defeated for IDA president, thank goodness, has joined the wacky band of (two? three?) persons who believe "Bernie Oaklyn" is a person separate and distinct from Buddy Tretick. Sacks lives in NYC, if you couldn't have guessed it. (Reported by Boardman) AHHH! Speaking of which, I failed to list his address in that GRAUSTARK plug! Write John Boardman, 234 E 19 Street, Braoklyn, NY 11226. Tell him BRUTUS BULLETIN sent you; it will make his day.

JACK FROST, writing in the latest CANAL DREGS, misinterpreted a statement of mine. 79HE and Brutus 10, the 4th 10-day-deadline game, WILL continue to be backed by me as editor of BB. However, the 5th 10-day game now filling will not be, and will have CANAL DREGS as zine of record. I had to retype the latest DREGS, and so deleted the erroneous note.

MICHAEL MILLS (Emhain Macha) threw some worn-out cliché's at the Republicans last issue in a letter I had no time or space to answer. I will do so in #55, though. No room here this time.

The policy of BRUTUS BULLETIN being an open forum for all views was neatly spelled out lately in GRAUSTARK. I take the liberty of using an excerpt therefrom as a policy statement for BRUTUS BULLETIN:

problem." In his 'zine Brutus Bulletin he will publish any sort of slander that anyone sends in to him. Answer them, and another shit-load appears in the next issue. I have been overly patient with this bargain-basement Suetonius, but I have finally decided to pull the chain on him. His 49th and 50th issues have carried attacks on me from Charles Brannan (writing as "Steve Cartier") and Rod Walker (writing as an honest man). These packs of lies could be refuted, but they will only bring out a fresh set in the 51st issue, and I have no time or patience for this sort of thing. So I've told Michalski that enough is enough.

However, anyone else who wants to get into the slander racket is welcome to send their entries to him. (Route 10, Box 526-Q, Moore, Okla. 73165) What is the most preposterous scandal you can imagine? "Rod Walker sodomizes turkey vultures on coast-to-coast television"? "Margaret Gemignani was the original for Broom Hilda"? "Mark Berch shoots up shredded issues of Doll Man Comics"? "Konrad Baumeister is the illegitimate son of Ernst Roehm and Rudolf Hess"? "Curtis Gibson is a Martian spy who gets his jollies with under-age cocker spaniels"? "Ron Kelly is Secretary of War for the Confederate Government-in-Exile"? Never mind - if you can imagine it, John Michalski will print it. //

STAR TREK Reviews

First, STEVE McLENDON, Dragon & The Lamb

Well, folks, I managed to see Star Trek the day it opened here in Houston. The opening scene was simply outstanding, and I braced myself for a really top-notch motion picture.

Alas, 'twas not to be, for after the opening scene things began to go downhill. The plot was typical Star-Trek-TV-episode, and not one of the better ones at that. The movie simply dragged in places, and at times I found myself getting restless in my seat, waiting for them to get on with it. And the climax just made me want to throw up.

On the positive side, the special effects were very good (but I would still rate them behind Star Wars). And it was good to see the old gang back together -- Kirk (Admiral Kirk, now), Spock, Scotty, McCoy, Sulu, Chekhov, Uhura. They all looked pretty much the same, except for Scotty who had gained a bit of weight.

All in all, I was very disappointed, but then again I do tend to be overcritical when it comes to movies. But even some "hard core" Trekkies I know expressed disappointment also, so I don't think I'm way out in center field. Hopefully the sequel (and I'm sure there'll be one) will offer a tremendous improvement.

((I cannot agree on there being a sequel, as I think they'll lose money on this 'pilot', but I pretty much agree with the rest.))

Bob Arnett, VOLKERWANDERUNG (The real one, not the fake) (I think) *J.M.*

How about another viewpoint on:

STAR TREK:the Motion Picture.

I have read in some of the 'zines various critiques of this new motion picture. In fact, all that I've seen leads me to believe that few actually "REALLY" enjoyed the entire picture! Well - friends, neighbors and fellow aliens - it surpassed all of the 79 Star Trek episodes; it surpassed Star Wars because it was on a higher intellectual plane; and most certainly was not boring; a "few" dull moments, but no more than any movie. What does one expect? If you went in to see Star Trek with the common belief that the series was the most enjoyable TV show you had ever seen, how can a 2-hour and 10-minute movie surpass hundreds, or even thousands, of hours of reruns?

Back to the picture.....

It seems that most enjoyed the first half of the movie....Seeing the cast reunited and the Enterprise refurbished. But when the plot starts to thicken, most get bored and couldn't sit still in their seats

THE MORAL:

Most enjoyed Star Wars because it was fast - moving and simplistically entertaining. Yet, few of that same modern futuristic group can comprehend the intellectual capacity of 2001: A Space Odyssey.

I rate the screenplay of Star Trek on a comparable plane as the great 2001. As you can tell, I completely enjoyed Star Trek: the Motion Picture.

.....
((I must have been lacking either intellectual capacity or a couple of mind-expanding joints, for I was VERY disappointed with 2001, which I felt was absurd and an insult to paying customers. SW comments, true. But STAR TREK now, well, I'm afraid I was less than impressed. The opening shot of the Klingon vessels was impressive, as was the original idea it stole from STAR WARS, but subsequent time wasted on the Enterprise was boring filler, as was the Kaleidoscopic sequences of- and in- the Cloud. Also, the 'ascension' of the robot girl at the end was utterly stupid. STAR TREK the Movie flops with me.))

J.M.

JAN 16 1980

BRUTUS # 11 BEGINS!

Seven merry souls have now signed up for the LAST regular 2-week-deadline game to run here for a **LONG** time, so without further ado, I present our cast of players:

AUSTRIA: Joe Petrie, Box 247, Warren, VT 05674

ENGLAND: Nathan Mitchell, 426 E Ferrill, Norman, OK 73071 405-321-0659

FRANCE: Stan Johnson, 10 Pine Street, Edison, NJ 08817

GERMANY: Mark Cummings, 29222 Osborn, Bay Village, Ohio 44140

ITALY: Dave Grabar, 12861 Ave 18 $\frac{1}{2}$, Chowchilla, CA 93610 209-358-6154

RUSSIA: Jim Chatfield, 7505 Kenlea Ave, Baltimore, MD 21236 301-661-8251

TURKEY: Bill Becker, 810 Turwill Lane, Kalamazoo, MI 49007 616-349-6937

DEADLINE for SPRING, 1901, will be my mail received at the WORK address WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1980. Orders to the home address are OK except on deadline day, as your adjudications will be in the main state Post Office before I get home that day, so read and heed. For the record, orders in this game should go to: "John Michalski/Harper Oil Company/ 904 Hightower Bldg/Oklahoma City, OK 73102."

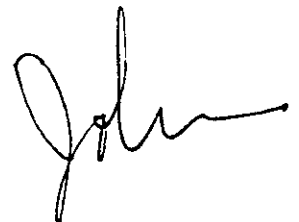
We have a good spread in this one geographically, plus a good spread in experience, vets to novices. That's the best way for all. Gamefees are owed, according to my records, by Petrie, Mitchell, Johnson, and Cummings. \$2 to subbers, or \$3 without sub. Subs to **BB** are 12/\$4. The phone numbers listed are what I have and may not be current in all cases. Please send your number in case I make an error I need to call you about. (I will do anything to avoid a delay of game!). I will not call you for an NMR or an error of YOURS, however. Read the houserules enclosed; you will be held responsible for them. The rule concerning "unambiguous oversights" includes, by precedent, mislabelling an army for a fleet, and misstating or deleting the nationality of a unit you are supporting. If you want an order to fail "by mistake", ask and I'll explain what a real "mistake" acceptable here would be. Or look at Jack Frost's opening in WHY ME #11. (Personal joke). If you have ANY questions, ask. I will gladly explain what is kosher and what is not, plus any rules on interpretation. I will NOT discuss tactics, but will answer questions that general hobby play experience would yield, e.g., pointing out to Russia that F StPnc is anti-English, F StPsc builds are considered anti-German. If you want play advice, ask your neighbors on the board.

Courtesy player labels will follow. Enclosed will be a set of houserules and 1 set of courtesy mailing labels for orders. I encourage you to send in one set of provisional order UPON RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE. Also, each season, or adding a set for NEXT season with THIS season's orders. Might save you a stamp, and an NMR. You can always send corrections, but I am not responsible for postal failings, so why not cover yourself as simply and best as you can?

Copies of Craig Reges' old Novice Packet with some additions by me are available for the asking, as are excerpts for your country from the AH/Walker GUIDE TO DIPLOMACY, purely for review and advertising purposes, of course. ANYTHING else, ASK, ASK, ASK!

Finally, you are operating under somewhat of a burden. EVERY BRUTUS BULLETIN GAME ever played has gotten off to an "interesting" 1901 start. Like a Marine recruit, then, you are under the burden of tradition, a fine old tradition of, uh, well, see what you can come up with.

All players are reminded that Diplomacy is a GAME. Have fun!



79 Iid

MADMAN SHIES AWAY FROM ENGLAND. FRANCE STILL A FREE FIRE ZONE?

DEC 27 1979

SPRING, 1905:

GERMANY (Madman): A TYO-Tri; A Bre-PAR; F Eng-BRE

FALL BELOW

Deadline for FALL, 1905, will be my mail received at home THURSDAY, January 10, 1979. Make that January 10, 1980. Press follows:

(No dateline): On the concession to AE, I vote "up yours".

(No dateline): The Madman has declared its puppethood to the powerful, treacherous Austrian archduke.

Howe to Grabar: Did you catch the old Humphrey Bogart flick, "Action in the North Atlantic" on the late show the other night? If you remember, the good guys won that one too.

ROME: Good to see you leave Piedmont, you Austrian cxxxxxxker. For I cherish Piedmont— it is the underarm of Italy.

ENGLAND to AUSTRIA: Pilant, be silent!

(No dateline): The Bruce Linseed look-alike contest is dying from lack of interest. We have only received one entry, and threw that out when the baggie began leaking.

TURKEY-WORLD: Would somebody help me? Austria now has Bulgaria! My F Aeg was just attacked too! Help! This is my death-bed warning to you guys—Pilant has AT LEAST nine centers.

((CORRECTION: The Fall 1904 sheet for the zine showed "F ENG S A Bre-Lon:". This should have read "F ENG C A Bre-Lon" like the player's sheets said.))

FALL, 1905:

MADMAN GIVES US A PEEK AT SOME HAPPENINGS!

JAN 10 1980

Germany (Madman): A TYO S TURKISH A Boh-Vie; A PAR S ITALIAN A Bur-Pic/NSO; F BRE-Mid

1905: ~~Be~~ Hol Bre PAR 3 Even

Winter, 1905 adjustments and SPRING, 1906, will be due with my mail received at home THURSDAY, January 24, 1980. Press follows.

79 Iid Press:

ROME: Turkey must be a liar. He tells me Austria is strong and powerful. Yet, the Austrian pulled his attack off me. Then Turkey asked me to support him into Greece with my fleet Ion. What happens? I lost the Ion? Hmmm!

The problem is, Turkey doesn't realize he is messing with a superpower!

BRUX to Underarm: You and your goddam Linseed Contest is the only reason I'm attacking you!

ROM-LON: That's dirty pool, you SOB. The war is on.

VIE-GAL: Shaffer, you cunt, get out!

AUSTRIA-TURKEY: OK, I accept you as a puppet. But one false move and it's your life. Remember that.

MOSCOW: Peach tree, apple tree, pear tree, country.....

79CK

The Second 10-Day Deadline Game

JAN 7 1980

DEUTSCHLAND BECOMES DUTCHLAND; ENGLISH POSITION IMPROVES
WHILE FRENCH CHANCES GROW BLEAK

Winter, 1906: English F Kie r BAL, F Pic r OTB; France builds F BRE; Turkey builds
F SMY, A ANK

SPRING, 1907:

AUSTRIA (Henthorn): A PIE-Mar; A VEN-Pie; A Fuh S A Mun-Bur/ann.; A Mun-BUR;
A SIL S A Tyo-Mun; A Tyo-MUN; A War-PRU; F ION H

ENGLAND (Hayner): A NWY S F Lyo/imp./(Fr); F NTH S A Nwy; F Bal-KIE; F Den-SWE;
A Hol-RUH; A BEL S A Hol-Ruh; F Eng-WAL

FRANCE (Kelley): A Par-PIC; F BRE S A Par-Pic; F Iri-MAO; A MAR-Pie;
F GLYO S F Spasc-Wes; F SPAsc-Wes;

GERMANY (Mitchell): F Kie-HOL

TURKEY (Becker): A FIN S A Stp-Nwy; A STP-Nwy; A Sev-MOS; A BER unordered, H;
A Ank-SEV; F BLA C A Ank-Sev; F SMY-Eas; F EAS-Ion;
F Tun-WES; F NAF & F TYN S F Tun-Wes; F Rom-TUS

Interesting maneuvering going on. Let's see what cold weather brings for FALL, 1907,
due with my mail received here THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1980. Press follows.

PARIS: Oh, what a relief it is.

LONDON-MOSCOW: The former laughingstock of the NFL will have crushed the Rams by the
time this press is released (for the second time this season).

((Oh, well. There's always next year.))

PARIS-VIENNA & LONDON: Are you two really going to hand the fugging game over to the
Turk on a silver platter? He's told each of us of his good intentions, and that another
of us is his next target. He's right. We're ALL his targets, and if you two don't get
your heads out, we'll all lose. And to make it worse, if you DON'T get your heads out,
I'll personally hand him all my centers. Are you diplomacy players or are you mice?

BERLIN: Ever gone to a highland appliance sale?

ANKARA: Oops!

LATE NOTE:
Lee Kendler is
the new BNC

78 Tid

JAN 8 1980

MADMAN LEANS TO WEST FOR SPRING.
SCANDANAVIA QUIET BEFORE THE STORM.

The Adopted Game

SPRING, 1904:

- AUSTRIA (Cartier): A Vie-TRI; A Bud S A Vie-Tri/d/r Vie, Otb
- ENGLAND (Reese): F BAL S F Hol-Kie; F Hol-KIE; A SWE H; F BAR-StPnc; F Edi-NWG; F Lvp-CLY; F LON-Nth
- FRANCE (Columbo); F Wes-TYN; F TUN S F Wes-Tyn; F Mid-WES; A VEN S AUSTRIAN A Vie-Tri; A Mar-PIE; A MUN S ENGLISH F Hol-Kie; A BUR S A Mun; A PAR *unordered, H*
- GERMANY (Madman): A GAL-Ukr
- ITALY (Madman): A TYO S FRENCH A Mun; F NAP S FRENCH F Wes-Tyn
- RUSSIA (Baillie): A SIL-Mun; A BER S A Sil-Mun; A WAR-Ukr; A NWY H; F STPnc S A Nwy; F RUM H; F SKA-Nth
- TURKEY (Polley): A Con-GRE; F AEG C A Con-Gre; F ION-Tyn; F Alb-ADR; F Gre-ALB; A Tri-BUD; A SER S A Tri-Bud

What a mess! Let's see what fall brings with my mail received at home WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1980.

My thanks to those of you who have so far sent the dollar or two contribution asked of you. There was no further press, no opinions on black press, no requests for these or shorter deadlines, no nothing. OK.

There is one person now standing by for this game, and others in the BB readership are requested to volunteer if so inclined.

The Second Blind Madman Game

12-31-79

79 Nid

MADMAN SURPRISES DUAL MONARCHY. WIDE SPECTRUM OF CHANGES THIS AUTUMN! MORE TO COME SOON?

FALL, 1902

- GERMANY (Madman): A Boh-VIE; A SIL-War; F Hol-NTH; A SWE-Nwy; A Bel S FRENCH A Bur-Pic/NSO/d/r Ruh, Pic, Otb

Winter, 1902: A Bel r PIC, per call to player whose madman orders were selected.
1902: ~~Kie~~ Ber Mun Hol ~~Øen~~ VIE SWE 5 Even

Your Winter, 1902 adjustments and SPRING, 1903, will be due with my mail received at home WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1980. Press follows.

London-Paris: Sorry about that!

Santa to Bob: Did you find your Christmas gift!?! Sorry about the color, it's a ll I had. Merry Christmas.

Vienna-Paris: Join aboard, turkey, before I eat Italy by myself.

DEC 27 1979

79IZ

formerly Brutus #9

PRETTY LEAN YEAR FOR 1901. NO HOME CENTERS LOST AT ALL, THOUGH NOT FOR THE WANT OF TRYING. G-F BOTH WOOING ENGLAND, OR JUST TRYING TO FOOL EACH OTHER?

FALL, 1901:

- AUSTRIA (Lee): F Alb-GRE; A SER S F Alb-Gre; A TRI restrains temptation (H)
- ENGLAND (Osuch): A Yor-BEL; F NTH C A Yor-Bel; F NWG-Nwy
- FRANCE (Fuchs): F Mid-POR; A MAR H; A BUR S ENGLISH A Yor-Bel
- GERMANY (Howe): A MUN-Bur; A Kie-DEN; F HOL S ENGLISH A Yor-Bel
- ITALY (Palter): A PIE-Mar; A VEN-Tri; F Ion-TUN
- RUSSIA (Hayner): F Gob-SWE; A STP-Nwy; A Ukr-RUM; F SEV S A Ukr-Rum
- TURKEY (McCarty): A BUL-Rum; A CON-Bul; F Ank-BLA

COA: Kai-fu Lee, until Jan 12, 124 Baltimore Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

A very interesting game, gentlemen. My thanks to you for keeping the BRUTUS BULLETIN tradition of good 1901s alive and healthy. Looking at the board, I can't see but one alliance, and even that could change next spring. Speaking of which, let's see Winter, 1901, and SPRING, 1902, with my mail received here THURSDAY, January 10, 1980.

Someone called for a separation vote. Note that you do not need a specific call for a separation in BB, just 4 requests from players. I have one, so if three more of you also ask, only Winter, 1901 adjustments will appear. So, don't ask me, ask your fellow players. HOWEVER, be sure to send spring orders in any case, as even if 6 others say "SURE we will", they just MIGHT be lying!

Another player requested that codewords be allowed. Well, if ALL SEVEN of you so voted, I would permit it. Anything less would fail, as I think it infringes on the rule forbidding orders conditional on concurrent events. I beleive it is up to the players to negotiate and plan ahead, so that when you receive the results, you often need only say, "XX has ocured, so I will do YY as planned, expect you to do ZZ, unless I hear otherwise." Or some such. It's up to you. But no codewords etc. I just adjudicate the orders received without finagling.

1901 in Review:

A: Home SER GRE	5	Build 2
E: Home BEL	4	Build 1
F: Home POR	4	Build 1
G: Home HOL DEN	5	Build 2
I: Home TUN	4	Build 1
R: Home RUM SWE	6	Build 2
T: Home BUL	4	Build 1
Neutral: Nwy Spa	<u>2</u>	

Press:

34

CON: I need a Dale Carnegie course, I guess.

(No dateline): Italian "intelligence" being a contradiction in terms, we cannot comment on the reports of "German" intelligence.

MOS-CONSTANTINOPLE: Oriental domain should have yellow armies in it. No??

BUL: Now, was that a right turn or a left turn I was supposed to do? Probably doesn't matter anyway.

(No dateline):

The Tsar, who was quite indiscreet

Ordered Army-Moscow to St Pete.

When he tried to move west

He was quickly suppressed

And forced, off the board, to retreat.

ROME-VENICE: DECLARATION OF WAR---Whereas the Austro-Italian treaty provided specifically "I (King Dan Scott) will fight anyone who does attack you (Austria-Hungary)", "Whereas in Fall, 1901, the Italian army in Venice attacked Trieste, an Austrian province, and whereas we Roman Catholics cannot Lie, His Imperial Majesty Dan Scott I hereby declares Italy in a state of civil war. The treacherous City of Venice will be sieged, subjugated, and offered to Austria-Hungary, our magnanimous neighbor."

THE CANAL DREGS

January 1, 1980

Supplement to The Brutus Bulletin

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

As of today, seven people have written me letters, postcards or checks for acceptance into a game of ten-day deadline postal Diplomacy. So let's have at it!

AUSTRIA: Vernon Parker; 1854 Waybridge Ln.; Fenton, MO 63026

ENGLAND: Dave Pilant; 3801 SE 23 St.; Del City, OK 73115

FRANCE: Joseph Petrie; Box 247; Warren, Vermont 05674

GERMANY: Bob Osuch; 3417 So. Paulina; Chicago, IL 60608

ITALY: Gary Howe; 2012 Sandra Drive; Midwest City, OK 73110

RUSSIA: Ken Sniegowski; 508 Illinois St.; Lemont, IL 60439

TURKEY: Stan Johnson; 10 Pine St.; Edison, NJ08817

Since I didn't get many preference lists, countries were assigned by a double blind draw.

I have no stanfoys for my games. All units must have a separate order, units without a specific order will be listed as "unordered". Black press is encouraged. I will be happy to answer any question about writing orders correctly, but I will not discuss tactics.

Deadlines are 12:00 noon, local time here at RR 4 Box 138B; Lockport, IL, 60441. If you prefer to telephone orders my number is 815-838-3493. If you wish, you may send me a number to reach you at collect if your orders are late. Deadline for Spring 1901 is Saturday, January 19, 1980.

January 9, 1980 The Third 10-Day-Deadline Game

Summer, 1906: Russian A Boh r GAL

FALL, 1906: RUSSIAN STAY IN VIENNA A SHORT ONE

AUSTRIA (Kador): A PRU S ITALIAN A Mun-Ber; A RUH-Kie; A Boh-VIE; A TYO S A Boh -Vie; A SER-Tri;

ENGLAND (Howe): A LVP-Spa; F MID & F NAO C, A GAS S A Lvp-Spa; F HOL S RUSSIAN F Kie; A BEL-Ruh; A BUR-Mar

ITALY (McMahon): A SPA H; F WES S A Spa; F NAF-Mid; A MAR-Bur; A PIE-Mar; A MUN-Ber; A VEN-Tri; F Aeg-ION

RUSSIA (Michalski): F BLA S A Arm-Ank; A Arm-Ank/d/r Syr, Otb; A SEV-Rum; A WAR-Pru; A GAL-Bud; A Vie S A Gal-Bud/ann.; F BER S F Kie; F KIE S F Ber

TURKEY (Osuch): F Eas-AEG; A ANK S AUSTRIAN A Smy-Arm

There's still plenty of fight left in this game! The supply centers owned are unchanged from Fall, 1905. Russia is either +1 or +2, depending on the retreat of A Arm. No other country has any adjustments. Spring, 1907 orders, which may be conditional on Russia's retreat and/or builds, are due by noon Saturday, January 19, 1980. Press follows.

KIEV: Now what is WHO up to?

VIENNA-WORLD: Did everyone read the Sultan's letter in VOICE OF ROOM?

712

79HE

LETTERS

ROD WALKER

"alcala"
1273 crest dr.
encinitas ca 92024
7 january 1989

I didn't see any Diplomacy in BB #53. Not that I follow the games, anyway, and since the press you get seems not to be very thrilling, you are concentrating on the good stuff: my letters (and others, of course).

Frankly, I am getting bored with the discussions on what goes on in restrooms. "Tearooms", as they are known in the street vernacular. One would think they are the center of the gay subculture, which is far from true. Most gay people steer clear of the known "active" tearooms because ...well, it's not very romantic, is it?

I had to laugh at Curt Gibson's admission that his vocabulary is 3 generations behind the times. "Queer" is falling out of fashion partly because it is unnecessarily pejorative in connotation, but also because it is ceasing to be a noun and becoming a verb. "To be queer for" something means to have an almost compulsive preference for it. It's often used with respect to some sexual kinkiness or other, but I've heard it used in other contexts.

For someone who professes an almost universal expertise, it's amazing Curt wants to stick with an outmoded word.

The question of whether gay persons should be policemen/women is an academic one. Two, possibly three, members of San Diego's vice squad are gay (I've seen one of them cruising in uniform). And of course gay cops abound here and in all the large cities. A good friend not too long ago got arrested for speeding and wound up making a date...and would you believe he still had to pay the fine?

Well, just remember: we are not contributing to the overpopulation problem...and that the vast, vast majority of child molesters, flashers, and rapists are heterosexuals. Who's "sick"?

I suppose few people reading your 'zine know Steve Cartier. I thought his letter on Boardman was hysterical because that is what it was. Anybody who knows Steve could hardly have taken it seriously...in fact, if you read it with an open mind, you wouldn't have taken it seriously in the first place. Boardman knows, of course, that it was meant as a gag, but of course that pompous ass cannot ever abide having his immense vanity pricked. You should only excuse the pun.

Iran: Because of Afghanistan, the situation is now far less serious than it was. Curt Gibson is right to point out the USSR's hopes to capitalize (excuse the pun) on the situation, but wrong in assessing her ability to do so. There are probably more English agents in Iran than Russian, and no doubt a good many Chinese

As for the hostages, it's a good bet some sort of accommodation will be worked out. This is not much different from the Pueblo affair, except that the so-called "students" involved are very foolish young people with lots of emotion and very little sense. Eventually they will run afoul of the government which will, hopefully, execute a few of them to teach them proper respect for the central authority. I do not see how the government can tolerate very much longer any pole of power outside itself. A crisis like this is bound to drag on. I'm glad the President, unlike not lost patience. I have seen nothing written on this problem which is not shallow and unperceptive. Hopefully the thinking in Washington is more sophisticated.

What? Another BB already? Well, fine. More to read and another chance to participate in your letter column.

Jane Fonda? Isn't she the smut queen from Hollywood who'd make a better bolshevik than Lenin?

I think you're just a little harsh on Ozog. He came partially around, the way you defined it to Kovalcik; let's not discourage him from our side. I am beginning to respect Eric more these days; he doesn't SOUND or act like a Tretick stage anymore (he did before, of course.).

You know, if I am to be totally impartial (ie. ignoring the fact that you're a genuine American and good friend, and Boardman's a godless Nazi,) I can't blame Boardman too much for his feelings. What I can blame him for is his actions. He should have simply asked that his name not be vilified so much. If Boardman was mentally all there, he'd be a boon to the hobby and to the world. As it is now, he's a hater in the first degree. Personally, the defiant, overbearing side of me would like to nuke Iran till it glows; but there's no chance that we would ever really initiate nuclear war. Which, trying to think rationally, would be kinda dumb anyway. No one wins a nuclear war, of course. And Boardman would be one of the first to get blown away in a nuclear war, too. How many ICBMs does the Soviet Union have pointed at NYC anyhow? Ah, there could never be enough to suit a Westerner like me.

I agree with Bruce Linsey about the slower monthly zines. I entered the hobby via Canada, and never knew there were anything less than 3-week deadlines available for some time. Also, he's right about your printing policy. I'd much rather get an average issue of BB than any other, except maybe Fol Si Fie. And I also vote that you type Gibson's stuff up. It just looks messy xeroxed-and-run the way it has been.

Whaaaaa? You mean you've heard from Lipscomb? Well, I haven't, and I'm cutting my trade (have done so even as you read this) with him.

Bob Osuch? That's a new name in the shooting gallery. His letter was an interesting injection, I thought. I wonder how that last name is pronounced?

Well, you're not on my bitch list. I got a kick out of your reference to Japanese windup cars, and to your desire to give at least as well as you get in a car crash with some rhinestone cowpie and his 3-ton Ford pickup. Out here lots of big logging trucks nearly kill little kids and drive people with windup cars nuts. Once I got so mad at some dumb our-angoutang in a logging truck I flipped him off. It was hilarious when he passed us, trying to shout and point a finger at me, just because I was not in favour of him tailgating us. Every winter (except this unbelievably mild one) the cold totally ruins a lot of our roads, and what we have aren't the best.

Regarding my letter-Peggy, I'm sorry for what I said. It was uncalculated for, to say the least. Please accept my apology.

I advise telling our dear JB where to ram it, like I did.

Oh ghod, they're coming out of the woodwork. Richard,*it's not as if Tretick hasn't had 'second chances'; he had a big one when he resumed publication under the 'Oaklyn' pseudonym. Everyone said to themselves, 'Ok, he's probably Tretick, but let's leave him alone and see if he reverts to type. He did, true to form. Diplomacy Digest #23-24 should convince anyone.

I wonder if my father gets memos like that at the St. Regis office. Yes, Klickitat is an industrial town. One big lumber mill, lotsa houses, some like mine up on a mountain, a river, and not much else. Unless you count our hog-trough 'cafe', high school with an enrollment of 60 on a good day, a fair excuse for a post office, a grocery store with prices about 140% of what you'd see in, say, Portland, a drugstore which could be

((* Kovalcik, Tetracuspid))

Kelley, conclusion

zapped with one quick call to the Health Department, a surprisingly good tavern, and enough overweight, gossipy old ladies to sink an aircraft carrier. I might be the only American teenager who has never purchased a single record or tape. So shoot me, I'm cheap. What this dump really needs is 'bout 300 gorgeous females. That would increase out population to 1049, but it'd be well worth it...

Also, our high school basketball team has yet to win a game, which pleases me. Yes, I know I have no spirit whatsoever, and I glory in it. I've taken enough shit off macho lumberjack's kids here in six years to totally revulse me to almost anything they do. (Except football, where we combine with the team down the road to have enough players, and I can knock some of these macho lumberjack/jocko types flat on their asses.)

I like Christmas vacation. Stay up till 3:30 in the morning designing dungeons and writing letters, no schoolwork. It's not all my fault if I'm a slothful bum.

Keep up the good work with BB, and let's get these Tretick packets in gear! Perhaps a page by one of us or Brux, and a copy of the article in DD#23/24.

((Better to 'pass the torch' to others and other projects for a while, and let Tretick's own absurdity with FRONT de Fraud convince his followers with his own mumblings.

Since you submitted the apology to harebrained Peggy, I will print it, but I doubt it will be noted, and almost certainly is not needed. The statement was a reasonable value judgement in view of her, ah, 'statements', and while it was perhaps brash, it was not incorrect. In addition to which, I doubt she read the original.

Unfortunately, you are all too correct in saying that the United States would never initiate a nuclear war. Indeed, under the present regime, I sincerely doubt we would even RESPOND to an initiated nuclear war. You may follow the US habit of believing that there are no winners of a nuclear war, but the USSR is under no such self-imposed handicap. Their offense, defense, and civil defense show that they do not view a mushroom cloud as the end of the world, certainly not after losing 20 million people in WWII, foreign occupation, massive internal slaughterings, and the like. Only the flabby US, untouched in our cocoon, think that the destruction of our gadgetry and alabaster cities would mean the "end of the world". End of the OLD world, perhaps, but the survivors will live in the new world, a new world ruled by those who were prepared and practiced in waging, surviving, and winning any darn war that comes along. In view of our total unwillingness to move on Iran, I would propose that we nuke Tehran in reprisal for the deaths of the hostages, and Qom as well; in fact, we might nuke the latter AHEAD of time to show the madman we will act. It's a 'holy' town of sorts, and the A-ya Hole-a's home town, I believe. Nukes won't give the Soviets an excuse to roll in in Iran's "defense" either, as would a US landing.

If you think Ozog isn't sounding like a Tretick stooge, check out his activities in CLAW & FANG.

Boardman has oft been denounced here in his time; everyone that comes across him has almost certainly done so, as he makes such an ass of him self. I once read that one of the reasons Robert Lipton got into publishing was to have a zine SOMEwhere that wasn't attacking Boardman! That NYC gang is all ali ke. However, while Boardman has certainly shown he's an asshole in viewing the world, a "godless Nazi" he is not. Rather, he is just a nauseating leftwing pacifist putting on his childish act of being terrified of Big Brother's repression. And when half the population ignores the churches, being "godless" (if in fact he is; I don't know) is simply being more honest than are most who pay lip service to religion just for social purposes, but could never give a shit less about the assorted hocus-pocus at the local Holy Roller Church. I won't attack him then for that.))

J.M.

I'm reading in several zines these days, commentaries on the upcoming American election. (in which I am a candidate for president)

I have decided that I, as a neutral Canadian would make a few comments.

First I must make a resounding vote of confidants in the handling of the Iranian situation by Jimmy Carter. An ordinarily inept wishy-washy man.

The bulk of American opinion seems to be swinging toward Kennedy, which is not news, but it is indeed unfortunate. Kennedy is a prime example of a round peg being forced into a hole, which in this point of time, is a square hole. The world is wallowing in a phase of uncontrollable inflation. World political opinion is swinging to the right. Rigid government control of its spending is required, along with a major freeing of enterprise to stimulate the economy. The next president will be the man who will lead the country, hopefully out of the financial straits. who is being touted as the man to do this? The free-spending ultra-liberal candidate. The worst man you can possibly elect at this time. Why do you want to do this to yourselves? While I agree that Carter is far from a viable alternate surely a suitable candidate can be found.

What really gets me about Kennedy is that he is the popular leader not on any merit he has shown to date, but on a sympathy to his dead brothers. Sympathy has its place, but not in a presidential race.

Kennedy has spoke out against the armed forces, (which I am firmly convinced are already vastly inferior to the Soviet counterpart) His record almost screams out the inevitable creation of more gov't programs which would bleed your already anemic treasury even more.

I don't know what to advise (my own candidacy is a viable alternative) but don't self-destruct.

WORD SEARCH

Can you find the hidden winter words? Words are placed diagonally, horizontally, vertically, backwards and forwards. Good Luck!

GRUYRTNUOCRUFORREHTAFIGW
FEBATSENOHPSBIRTHDAYLDAS
EVOLYADILOHTOVERLODOARTE
FOGRURARXAGDEMPEBNCAWARP
FLOGVOLDGLORYARAMERICAI
CUOOOEHODXIDIPUCERLOGSIR
HTLWLSWEETHEARTENSRBTELT
EIEVEECRAWLIVICPLUTIOMNSS
ROAHTRAMSNRNDRAEBABDWIPD
RNPOAXSM SHINOSRBPTWLETLN
YAYUEATOOLIBUSTRAEHIVNIA
TRERALLODTONAWVACSINXETS
RYADGOHDNUORGCYTEMTCXLTR
EWRTMVAYSIPHTGIVEE OFAEA
EATAHEPIPEVOTSOOITULOVRT
NRYADSENITNELAVNLGRNSDWS

FIND THESE WORDS:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| America | Groundhog Day | Railsplitter |
| Arrow | | Red |
| Axe | Hearts | Revolutionary War |
| | Holiday | |
| Beard | Honest Abe | Shadow |
| Birthday | | Stars and Stripes |
| Blue | Leap Year | States |
| | Lincoln | Stovepipe Hat |
| Candy | Log Cabin | Sweetheart |
| Celebration | Love | |
| Cherry Tree | | Valentine's Card |
| Civil War | Martha | Valentine's Day |
| Cupid | | |
| | Old Glory | Washington |
| Dollar | | White |
| | Potomac | Wig |
| Father of our Country | President | |
| Flowers | | |

— courtesy Veteran's Voice

ENDGAME STATEMENTS 1979 H Arturo Guajardo, ITALY (drew)

The 1979 H is the first game of postal diplomacy that I have actually completed. When I first entered the hobby I played in such zines as The Warmonger, and later, the Brew & Reefer. Both zines are no longer publishing at this time, and the bulk of games that I have started are now, I presume, orphans.

As Italy, I felt that my adventures in the West were to be limited until I was secure in the East, and since France seemed amenable to a non-aggression pact, I turned my eyes eastward.

The original Russian player and I struck a bargain to knock off Austria early in the game, so I brazenly grabbed Trieste from the reticent Austrians who had refused to write. By the Fall of 1901, I had become alarmed with Turkey's movement of its fleet westward. Since Russia seemed to indicate that he was strongly allied with Turkey, I envisioned a Russo-Turk steam-roller westbound for Venice. This thought caused me to approach the despairing Austrians about switching sides. They jumped at the chance this time, and early on I was able to call the shots.

We decided on Turkey, who was miffed about my bouncing him in the Aegean. Russia's frequent changes of government helped our cause, but it helped Austria more than it did me, since Kassel apparently saw Italy as his primary foe. Austria got fat from its resurgence in the Balkans and was able to take two Turkish centers. The deal was that Italy would get two of the Ottoman centers, but by the time we could overcome Kassel's skillful defense, France had just about polished England off and was looking my way. Austria was by then the senior partner in the alliance and simply took Ankara when the opportunity presented itself.

At this point, I urged Austria to refrain from attacking Russian centers and ally with Cartier, the latest and the last of the Czars. Austria refused to listen, and probably lost the game, as a result. Had he aided Russia in its war with Germany, he would have been able to get a toehold within the Reich and easily taken out a weak Russia later. Instead he chose to drive Russia into Germany's arms. When Cartier became Germany's puppet, he effectively sealed the stalemate line in the north. Meanwhile France and I steamed full speed ahead toward each other's shores. My preponderance of naval power enabled me to drive Brown out of the Mediterranean, ⁶¹ he outguessed me enough times to delay me a great deal.

Nathan Mitchell, the English player, who was battered from his homeland and alive only through the oversight of the French, proved an invaluable ally in this theater of war. Austria even remarked at his scrappiness and came up with the idea of conceding to England. I believe that there was at least one turn when A-I-E all voted to give the honors to Nathan. Nathan consistently supported the cause, and I regret that my only NMR of the game resulted in his demise. I fully intended that he should share in the draw of a game that was readily becoming ap-

79H ENDGAME STATEMENTS

parent would end in a stalemate. Had Nathan played Austria, he would have probably walked away with the victory.

I don't want to imply that Austria played poorly, but I feel that their unwillingness to negotiate more than they did hurt them very much. Nathan was always prompt with his correspondence, and always got his orders in on time. Hamill did not see the need to discuss many matters (except the return of Trieste), and his NMRs held the game record. Hamill did prove to be a loyal and trustworthy ally on most counts. His taking of two Turkish centers instead of one and his occasional threats regarding Trieste were small exceptions. The fact that he never did retake Trieste and come crashing into Italy is certain cause to be grateful. Nevertheless, in view of his track record, one wonders if that was not due to lethargy rather than loyalty.

Perhaps the most important moves of the game involved the German invasion of France. This was either a very skillful phony war, or Germany astutely latched on to some survival instincts when he pulled out leaving Brown unscathed. The manner of the Russian demise also played an important part in setting up the stalemate line and stopping our momentum (lumbering as it was) cold. One can only wonder if Russia simply forfeited in favor of his German ally. His smooth removal certainly insured the Franco-German position.

By and large this game certainly will win no awards for excitement, but I did actually play it from start to finish. Our intrepid Gamemaster must be given the full credit for this. His reliability was the only thing that kept me in the hobby. With my games in The Warmonger, B&R, and ATO going down the tubes, I nearly hung it up. Only the Brutus Bulletin kept me hanging in there. It's been two and one half years since I entered the hobby. One game completed doesn't sound like too good of a record in that time, but the BB's ingredients for fast reliable games enabled me to actually finish a game in less than a year. Keep up the good work John.

((Thanks. One point I feel I should comment on is the concession call and vote to England. There WAS a season when the call for a concession to England not only had a plurality (which it always did), but in fact, was voted YES by every single player save one, and he failed to vote! (Remember, England was a 1 at this point, with four players at about 8). The only thing that denied Nathan the victory was the BB policy that an NVR = no on what I consider to be nonsense votes, which this was. But, folks, that was as close as you can come!)) J.M.

ERIC KIRCHNER (German stand-in) (drew)

I entered this game as a standby for a 6-center Germany, which isn't bad as standby jobs go. I decided to ally with England vs France, and did, very briefly. It soon became obvious that A/I were quite united and that unless the western powers moved quickly, it would all be over. So I took the initiative, stabbed England, allied with France (who was stronger and in better position), and turned to face A/I. Meanwhile

Kirchner, Germany, Conclusion

Russia was also taken over by a standby who stabbed everyone and went out quickly, but not before he helped me stop Austria. Thank you, Steve Cartier.

The game quickly locked into a boring F/G vs A/I with no headway possible by either. The only comic relief was an errant English fleet in Portugal (among other places). We all got bored and voted the draw. That's all folks—if this seems a bit sketchy, just believe me— any elaboration wouldn't be worth your time.

RON BROWN, France, drew

1979H started out to be an exciting, fast-paced game. It ended on a rather dull note, however, with a four-way draw after several seasons of useless jockeying around a stalemate line. This game is another example of how a game that begins well can change drastically once standbys have been called upon to take over positions in a game. I began as one usually does with France, trying to sound out both England and Germany on their feelings regarding attacking the other. John Beamer's England made my choice of enemies easy, though, when he moved to the English Channel in Spring 1901. A Good, solid alliance was then made with Galen Workman's Germany and we proceeded to get into a position to do England in. Then both of these players dropped out and in came a brand new England and Germany: Nathan Mitchell and Eric Kerchner, respectively. As I was already in the process of invading England I saw no reason to call it off just because a standby had taken over the position. Then in a devastating stab using the combined seasons to his best advantage, Eric stabbed me brilliantly. However, his stab is what eventually (as I see it) forced the eventual draw. Even as he did it, the Italian-Austrian alliance cleaned up in the east and started west. Had Eric not stabbed me when he did, it is likely that England would have been wiped out rapidly, instead of being allowed to hang on and make his presence noticeably felt until the Italian NMR which finally (and luckily) allowed him to be annihilated. I'd like to commend Nathan on a fine job as a one center England for so long. But because of the timely westward movemeth of the Eastern Alliance, Germany rightly saw that his only chance was to work together with me and establish a stalemate line; which is what eventually was done. My compliments to the players but especially to you, John, for a wonderfully competent job as the GM for the fastest-moving game I was ever involved in.

Ron

NEW ORPHANS PROJECT BEGINNING!

A couple of the new lights in the hobby, John Daly or DOGS OF WAR, and Dick Martin of RETALIATION, are going to work together to try and get a real Orphans Project functioning. There is some foul or other left over from an old IDA try at this, but he has done nothing in an awfully long time, and basically, orphaned games are on their own until some of the players themselves get the ball rolling and rehouse the things on their own. Now these two will act as a clearinghouse for orphaned games and GMs seeking games to adopt. John is at Rt 2, Box 136-M5, Rockwell, NC 28138, and Dick is at 26 Orchard Way N, Rockville, MD 20854. A very worthwhile project, and typically, done by some of the newest faces. So it goes.

Odds 'n' Ends

Contribution
Courtesy of Bill Shaffer →
(dedicated to chain
smoker Dave Pilant) →

Ex-Ambassador Airs Views on OPEC

OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, is not going to go away, according to former U. S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia James Akins. Testifying before the energy subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee, Akins stated that OPEC "is a fact of life. It is neither a good nor an evil organization. It controls a product we need, one we have to have, and for which we have no replacement in the short or even in the intermediate run."

He discounted as "stupid" the suggestion that the U. S. purchase all of its oil imports through a single federal agency empowered to accept bids from producing countries. "This proposal is based on the premise that the OPEC countries want to break into our market," Akins said. "And they don't. Saudi Arabia is producing now 8.5 million barrels a day. We are urging them to increase production. The Saudi Arabians themselves say that production should be no more than 3 million barrels a day. They would be delighted to cut back production."

As for the chances of the cartel splitting from within over price disputes, he said that OPEC does not really set oil prices. OPEC fixes a minimum price, nothing more, and any "member in OPEC is not only allowed but encouraged to sell oil above the minimum if the market demands such a price; and it does today." Akins contended that the only way an OPEC country could break the agreement would be to sell its production below the minimum, which would be "real cheating."

Mexican Oil a Minor Factor

On the potential for Mexico to become the Saudi Arabia of the West, the former ambassador said an "awful lot of nonsense has been published about Mexican reserves," and, even if they are as high as some people claim, the Mexican government is planning to hold exports to a level merely sufficient to fund its development program.

"They are talking about 2 million barrels a day exports," Akins said, and some American companies think that might be high; Mexico may not be able to sustain that export level. "In any case, that is the Mexican figure and it does not break OPEC. It does not change the world oil picture substantially."

Asked how the U. S. government deals with OPEC, Akins responded that he did not know current policy, but, when he was in the Foreign Service the "general rule was that OPEC was an immoral organization, therefore we should have no contact with it; maybe it would go away."

Taken individually, he said that we have no friends in the cartel. They have interests, and we have interests, and sometimes these interests coincide "When Saudi Arabia says they are going to forego price increases, that they are going to fight in OPEC to keep prices lower, then they are doing this because they think they will advance their political standing in this country. They haven't been very successful, but they think they will be; their price restraint has been largely for that reason."

Later testimony by Craig Karpel, Director of the Council on Energy Policy, Inc., brought up the fact that Saudi Arabia has bestowed a solar heating and cooling system on a school in Reston, Virginia. "What they do not tell us," according to Karpel, "is that the reason for their magnanimity is that they want to know what solar energy costs under U. S. climatic conditions so that they can set the cap price for OPEC oil far enough below that figure so that solar will never be economical."

Courtesy of:

January 2, 1980

Energy Management

Page 3

IF you skip this stuff, please read the
last paragraph at least.



"Thank you for not smoking."

Now Who's Too Big for Its Britches?

In the bad old days, DoD was the whipping boy because it used up so much of the total national budget. It became quite popular in the newspapers and magazines to castigate the massive spending plans of the armed forces, to warn the populace of the dangers of the military-industrial complex, and to warn that the monolithic military structure was getting too big for its britches. Most of these statements can be remembered as being made in the post-World War II days. They were probably made in pre-World War II days also, for who can forget the pictures of infantrymen drilling with broomsticks because there weren't enough guns to go around?

This country certainly is much better prepared now than in those days when its military fortunes were at such a low ebb. In retrospect, a person may wonder how the US could have been so naive. It was the richest nation on the earth. It was blessed with a seeming inexhaustible supply of easily available raw materials. Its manufacturing capability was unparalleled. Energy was plentiful and cheap. The US population was among the best educated in the world. Looking back in history it is easy to find nation after nation that had these blessings—probably on a smaller scale. And every one of those that did not retain an effective self-defense force was eventually overrun by semi-have-not greedy aggressors. The US was a plum, ripe for the picking, and in the early days of World War II, it appeared it might become the plucked plum. This nation was lucky in many respects to have survived World War II.

Today, the US still has a desirable supply of raw materials. Its factories are still the most productive in the world. Energy, though becoming more expensive, is still plentiful enough that it is being squandered at an alarming rate. And the US citizen is still one of the best educated in the world. In short, the US is still a highly desirable target for military acquisition. Other nations would like to own it and its lands. So, the US still must have a strong self-defense capability if it is going to survive. Human nature hasn't suddenly become benign, although a few individuals think that if the US became a nation of passive, trusting souls and threw down its arms, other more covetous nations would follow suit. Still others feel that if this country gave everything needed to those less fortunate, all of our problems would be solved.

The huge monolith in the government is not the military, anymore. It is the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. With its approximately \$185 billion budget, as compared with the DoD \$126 billion, the health, education, and welfare of the US citizen should be unparalleled. In fact, if 20% of the approximately 100 million families in the US that have the lowest income were to split this HEW budget, each family would receive about \$9000 per year.

So, now it is HEW that is the huge, self-generating monolith that is eating up tax dollars. And, although it is certainly accomplishing many good things, the bureaucracy it has generated makes the military pale by comparison. Cities, counties, and even some states are refusing to accept HEW's largess because they are finding that it is more expensive to establish required control mechanisms than it is to do the job themselves. HEW is insidiously teaching people that it does not pay to work, for their income when not working is often greater than it is when they are working.

While HEW has grown magnificently in its status and structure, the funding for defense of this nation has decreased in percent of gross national product—about 38% over the past several years. Who says this country's military preparedness is about equal to that of the USSR? The US has about one sixth of the USSR's number of tanks, fewer aircraft, fewer submarines, fewer men under arms, an almost non-existent air defense capability—while the Soviets have one of the largest and best—and no operational missile-carrying fast patrol boats. Even teenagers, long a bastion of anti-defense capability, were reported in a recent poll to be most worried about this nation's capability for defense. But, this country can't afford any more defense, according to its legislators. Of course it can't. It is spending so much money giving the good life to those who don't want to scratch and fight and work for their living, and too little on those who really need it.

President Carter made an impassioned plea, via his secretary of defense, for all the NATO nations to increase their defense spending at a constant rate of 3% per year because of the perceived increasing Soviet threat. This year the US will offer a good example by increasing its defense spending by somewhere between 0 and 1%. A trade-off between good living, courtesy of Big Brother, and a really effective US defense posture seems to be highly in order. Any new war of any magnitude will find this country ill-prepared to cope with the new weapons of high accuracy and instantaneous destruction. The US will not have the luxury of time as it did in World War II to gear up to fight back. This nation will indeed become a plum ready for plucking. History waits with open arms to enfold those who do not believe in its lessons, and its old and proven truths.

Your Taxes at Work



For the past four years, the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., has been plowing-under desks, chairs, typewriters, and other office equipment—most of it perfectly good. The department blames the General Services Administration; GSA pleads ignorance. But a secretary at Agriculture, Carla Wagner, has an explanation: Furniture that no one is using goes down to the basement. "It overflows into the

halls. When the halls are full, they just throw it away." Wagner had been waiting months for a supply of badly needed chairs for her division when she looked out the window and saw a dumpster full of nearly new chairs about to be hauled away. She climbed into the dumpster, retrieved a dozen and carried them one by one up to the office. "There wasn't a thing wrong with them," she says.

(submitted by Harold Sproul)

Convicts in state penitentiaries have found a way to rake in social security checks. Here's how the con game works: The inmate "acts a little crazy," gets declared mentally unstable and begins collecting payments for his "disability," ranging from \$166.00 to \$518.30 per month. Some inmates spend the money on color TVs, stereos, electronic games and jogging outfits; more prudent ones invest in stocks and bonds.

Social security officials have no idea

how many of their 5 million disability clients are in jail. Prison administrators don't mind; they say the extra money and comforts make for contented convicts.

Since 1965, the U.S. Office of Education has spent \$940 million on a program to help 800 "developing colleges" around the country. Now the General Accounting Office says the program is so useless, wasteful and badly managed that Congress should

consider abolishing it. Some examples of where the money went: parking fees, a board chairman's salary, and lunch at a topless restaurant in Washington, D.C.

A West Coast research foundation got \$1,544,673 in taxpayers' money to finance "exchange of scientists between the National Academy of Sciences of the United States and the academies of the U.S.S.R., Poland, Yugoslavia, Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and the German Democratic Republic." Want to bet who'll get the most out of that deal?

(submitted by Duncan Mackenzie)

Some gems among National Science Foundation grants:

—\$47,760 to the University of Illinois to study "The Biology of Peruvian Blow Flies."

—\$10,433 to the University of Colorado for research on the "Social Ecology, Parental Behavior and Development of Coyotes."

—\$63,102 to Dartmouth College for a 15-month study on "The Role of Facial Expressions of Emotion in the Activation and Conditioning of Emotional Behavior."

—\$89,693 to a Buffalo, N.Y. research group for a study on "Privacy and Communication in the Office and Their Impacts on Job Satisfaction and Productivity."

—And \$91,996 to Rutgers University for a two-year project on the "Evolution of Pubescence Characteristics in Bumblebees."

An Eastern college has been awarded \$8,012 in federal funds for a phonological analysis of the "sign language of India."