

September 4, 1985

(512) 343-8202

So how did you all like my last mid monthly? Fess up, how many of you have already flipped through this issue to see how the pages are numbered? That was the first, and last, time that I haven't done the layout myself. I walked into the copy store with my 14" originals, handed them over the counter, and said "I want this in book form on this paper." I should have known I was in trouble when I got the call asking if I wanted it one sided or two sided. So they messed up the numbering and decided they didn't like my spacing. So I decided they were going to buy that issue. I hope you all enjoyed issue 14 courtesy of Kinko's copies!

My first MAJOR Gm error has caused a delay in the Presidential Politics game. The new deadline in that game is September 19, 1985, though I don't expect anyone except possibly Ty Hare to change orders. The mistake is that I listed Dan and James as being against the Oil Import Fee issue, when in fact they are for it. That difference could easily change the outcome of this election, and because Ty hasn't been home for a week, I am forced to delay the game. It's only two weeks, so it shouldn't change our schedule too much, and I was going to have to get away from the end of the month anyway with Christmas coming up. And I also might be able to get the GONZO results from Jake by then too.

That has led me to shorten the deadline for the ZWILNIKS game as well. Since the seasons have been separated and I already have spring moves on file for all but one player, I don't see a problem in setting the Spring deadline for September 19 as well. If any of the players have a huge problem with that, let me know and I will consider adjusting it. The only legitimate excuse I can see is that you want time to negotiate with Steve Langley as the French standby, but I don't see this as a problem for two reasons: 1) He already was called as a standby just one season ago, and 2) Most of you aren't going to negotiate with a standby anyway. As I said, if there is a problem, let me know.

No real hobby news since last time. In fact, since I have removed myself from any involvement in "The Feud" I am getting most of my other hobby news second hand, and my accuracy is deplorable because of that. So, I think I am going to limit my reporting to my personal experience. If any of you don't already have a better news source let me know and I can recommend a few zines.

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS -- ISSUE STANDS

ISSUE\CANDIDATE

	DAVE	TY	JAMES	DAN	JIM	PETE	JAKE	MARK	STEPHEN
Nuke	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
Panama	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-
Alaska	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
Busing	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+
Chrysler	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	+
Nicaragua	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-
Wind II	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
IDB	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
Draft II	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+
Dom Spend	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-
Fd Stamps	-	-	+	+	?	+	+	?	+
MX	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
Oil Fee	-	+	+	+	?	-	+	+	+

This is what I have on file. These are the stands that will be used during this next turn. If you think I have made a mistake on any of these then let me know and I will check it out. EVEN IF I HAVE MADE A MISTAKE THESE WILL BE THE STANDS FOR THE NORTH PLAINS REGIONAL! If I verify that I have you listed incorrectly then I will announce that next issue. Housing is the issue that has come into play during this weeks caucus, and will be in next issue.

RAZORCON REPORT

The weekend before DipCon we had RazorCon in Houston. We had two rounds of Diplomacy and (surprise, surprise) Bob Baker won the tournament! I came in second to Bob and also won best country as France. For a local Con we had a pretty good turnout, and we did have a great time. It was decided then that we would be submitting a bid for the 1988 DipCon, either as our own Con or in conjunction with one of the major Cons already being held in Houston. In preparation for that we will be holding several events over the next two years and want to do everything we can to build up the FTF involvement here in Texas. That will eventually build up the postal involvement, and we will be ready for a National Championship in 88. We already boast the National Champion! More on that in the DipCon Report.

James did a great job of organizing the Con, and there were several very memorable moments. First, I got the award for best sense of humor. I still don't know if that was for my playing or my comments. I also came in second WITHOUT TELLING A SINGLE LIE! I never stabbed anybody, nor did I mislead them. I just waited until somebody lied to me and then retaliated. We taught a whole new group of people how to play Titan (talk about the blind leading the blind!).

James had sent off for the books that Calhamer is giving away, and everyone at the Con got one. It should make interesting reading for all the History buffs out there. The Con was held in the community room of a mall, so food was readily accessible and we were quite comfortable. We played all day Saturday, and most of Sunday before I had to leave for home. I did get a chance to "play" Cosmic Encounters, if you actually play that game. Very little strategy, and very little diplomacy. A lot of weirdness. If I don't play that again for a long time it will be too soon.

I am sure that James and Bob are going to have good write-ups of RazorCon, so write them for samples of their zines. I look forward to hosting all of you in 88!

DIPCON REPORT

Dipcon was a blast. Those who missed it, including just about everyone reading this, really missed a great Con. There were seven (yes seven!) rounds of Diplomacy including the final round. Basically we had a game starting every five hours. That is a LOT of Diplomacy! I was especially appreciative of the scheduling because I was blown out of the first round but I was able to come back strong in the next two games and ended up in second place in the prelims and on the top board. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Overall it was one great weekend. Actually, it was a week for me! Four of us used those cheap Eastern airline tickets and flew to Seattle on Thursday morning. Pete drove to Austin from Dallas, and got here about 7pm. As a welcoming gesture I had him cook dinner. I finished packing and we headed for Houston at about 10pm. Stephen Wilcox had agreed to drive us to the airport

so I wouldn't have to leave my car parked there for 6 days, and we got to Stephen's house around 1:30am. After a few minutes of general BSing we headed for the airport and got there just in time for boarding.

The plane was an AB300, or Air Bus, and had 200 or so passengers on it. That was the biggest plane I have ever been on, but 'Globetrotter' Pete told me about some of the planes he had flown to Europe and Japan that were larger. We passed most of the four hour trip talking, and for some reason I couldn't get all the recent airline crashes off my mind, and that ended up being the main topic of conversation. I know Pete appreciated that.

We got to Seattle at 8:30 am, and there was the 'ToadFather' himself to greet us. I didn't look anything at all like I was supposed to, at least Terry didn't think so. Terry was different than I had expected as well. I went up there expecting to have every other sentence be some diatribe against Bruce Linsey, but I was very pleasantly surprised. Although the topic did come up occasionally, it was hardly as prevalent as I had thought it was going to be. We had breakfast, and drove on to Terry's house. While Terry and Pete went to finish making the Toad Trophies, Bob Baker, Byron Vorenski (a friend of Bob's who came up for the FRPing), and I all played a game of Titan and then M.U.L.E. on Terry's Atari. Sometime that afternoon we got our dorm rooms, then back to Terry's to await the arrival of the Langleys.

Steve and Daf were everything I expected. I really can't imagine that Con without them there. I can't quite put my finger on why they made such an impression on me; maybe its because they were always there. Kind of like the Mom and Pop of the group. They probably won't appreciate that, but that is what it seems like looking back on it now. Thursday night we played 'Quasi' Gunboat, which means all negotiations are open. I don't remember who won, but I am pretty sure it was a Daf/Pete draw. Somehow I think that was destined.

Friday afternoon the Con started, and while waiting for the Diplomacy to start I played a game of Campaign Trail with Chris and Michael Lee, and two others who I don't remember. I started out with my Presidential candidate in Texas and the VP in New York, your basic Bush/Kemp ticket. Michael had a couple of "wimpy liberals." His words folks, not mine. Well, for my first game ever I did pretty well. My only regret is that I lost to Michael's liberals, which only shows how unrealistic the game is.

Finally the Diplomacy started. In the first round I played Austria to Eric Verheiden's Turkey and locals in Russia and Italy. The Italian was really bizarre; he never negotiated, kept laughing this weird laugh and then would say something like "Evil tongues are a wagging!" I knew I was doomed. Out by 1903.

The second round was much better. I played Turkey with a local in Russia, Jay Marshall as Austria, Bob Baker as Italy, and Ron Spitzer as France. Austria, England and I took out Russia in short order. He did puppet to me for a turn or two and we used him against Germany until he switched sides. In the midgame it turned into a three way, get this, T/I/A. And it worked right up until I stabbed Austria for the win. I stabbed in the spring, and while Bob and Jay were discussing whether or not they could stop me I pointed out that if I did win they needed to get as many centers as possible. They agreed, so the last season ended up as a free-for-all. I won with 21 centers. Probably the best I have ever done in a Diplomacy game.

The third round that I played I drew France to Ron Spitzer's England and Don Tinker's Germany. We successfully set up a

western triple, and I opened with the Iberian Indecision. In the fall I pointed out to Italy, Bob O'Donnell, that Turkey had sent his fleet to Con, and that could only spell trouble for Italy. He agreed to let my fleet into the Med to help him defend. I was pretty much stalemated there right through to the midgame, until Italy turned on me. Then I grabbed Tunis and Venice, but the line had been drawn using Austrian, Turkish and Italian fleets, and I couldn't penetrate it.

The Austrian, Russ Rusnak, was pretty much the leader of the opposition, and indeed had set up a pretty good stalemate running from Ionian to Sevastopol. But one unit was misordered by Ken Corbin as Turkey, and his army bounced out of Galicia back into Rumania. At first we didn't notice this, and Russ was vehemently trying to get us to pass the six way. Italy had left the table about two seasons earlier and left perpetual orders, including the veto of any draw that didn't include him. Then Russ threatened to do the same, and I started to get frustrated. Then we realized that we needed to count the centers; Austria was minus one, and Turkey plus one. The line was broken!

At this point A/T offered me the win, in order to get back at Ron. I moved my fleets into the Ionian, took the last two Italian centers, and worked out a plan to eliminate Rusnak with Turkish help. Once all of that was accomplished I proposed a two way E/F draw, but the German vetoed it. The entire game Don had played the paranoid and kept moving units back to his home centers to guard against a stab. For some reason he didn't do that after having vetoed our draw. Needless to say, he was decimated. The game ended in a two way E/F, with Turkey and Germany surviving.

That round was about the best played, and the most challenging. I probably could have gotten the win, but the scoring system was a secret and I didn't know where I stood. I was pretty sure that I was on the top board, and since it had been announced that the final round would count for half the total score I didn't think that the difference between the win and the draw at that point would help me. As things turned out I was right.

In the final round I played Germany on the top board. Although we didn't know it going into the game, Bob Baker was in first place as Russia, Ron (three games with Spitzer! Did I pay dues, or what?) in third as France, and I was second. The other players were Michael Lee as Turkey, Ed Henry as Italy, Jay Schufelt as England, and a local as Austria. There was a lot of speculation as to who was in the lead; Jay and I turned out to be the top two candidates.

The Austrian was eliminated quickly, as Ron, Jay and I formed a western triple. This game moved onto midgame incredibly quickly, with the Turkish and Italian players offering to puppet to Russia, and Jay stabbing me several times in a row. I was kept at four or five centers throughout the game as I watched France and Russia continue to grow. I think I did a remarkable job sitting the fence in that game, and I kept both sides fearful of having me move against them. I did make the mistake of deciding which direction too late though, and I moved against France about the same time that he moved against me. We finally voted in a Russia/France draw.

That's right, sports fans, J.R. "Bob" Baker, the man who finished last year's DipCon as the first person eliminated from the bottom board won the 1985 National Championship. For those of you who are interested, Ron Spitzer came in second (he and Bob had a two way in the final round as France/Russia), and Jay Marshall third. Bob took two "Best Country" awards, and I got the "Best

Turkey"award. No, it was for the win, not my behavior. Although Terry Tallman wanted to give me some kind of Turkish award for my refusal to stab Spitzer in the third game. Terry was willing to bet any comers that I would go for the win in that game, since both Austria and Turkey were willing to give me the game in retaliation for Spitzer's playing tactics. But I didn't do it.

Speaking of awards, the trophies were rather unique. As everyone knows, people who puppet are called 'Toadies.' As not everyone knows, the person who leads Toadies is called a 'Toad.' Therefore, Tallman surmised that the top player in the tournament should be considered the top Toad, and that the trophies should reflect it. Consequently the trophies were all ceramic toads. I got a yellow one. Bob got a Black one and a White one and a great big green one for Best Germany, Best Russia, and First Toad respectively. In addition each of the winners got a certificate and a button signifying his achievement.

After the awards ceremony and the DipCon Society meeting we all met at Terry's for a bash. A good time was had by all, and I didn't see much evidence of drunkenness, so I enjoyed it as well. A lot of old war stories and discussion of hobby personalities. The best part of the bash was the fact that there was no Brux bashing. I had been dreading having to listen to all of that while I was up there, and I was very pleasantly surprised. There wasn't enough to even remember.

We left Seattle at 7pm and got to Houston at 2:30am. Pete and I spent the rest of that night playing Rail Baron over at Stephen Wilcox's house, then slept there until about noon. I got to see my parents, who just moved back to Houston, and Pete and I went roller skating with the Wilcox's. Then headed for Austin at 8pm. Pete left Austin for Dallas around midnight, and apparently made it back safely. All in all, a great week!

For better write ups than mine please check out Perelandra, Magus, or North Sealth, West George. Those zines are put out by the men who made the Con a success: Pete Gaughan, Steve Langely, and Terry Tallman, otherwise known as the DipCon Administrative Committee. These gentlemen put on one helluva Con, and are to be congratulated.

In other Con news, next years DipCon will be at MaryCon, and I have to say that this years presentations were well done, concise, and treated fairly. There was a ten vote difference and MaryCon in Fredricksburg won it. Other than that, the only real development was a charter amendment making it very difficult for any single region to dominate the Con, and making it difficult to amend the Charter. In effect the amendment changes the amending process. Instead of a simple majority vote at one con, it now takes a two thirds majority at one Con, and a simple majority to ratify amendments at the next Con in a different region. There were several other amendments introduced, including a rotation change and a change in the number of Regions from four to three which were defeated. For the third year in a row Proxy balloting was beaten, and again it was beaten soundly. Maybe we can convince people not to introduce it anymore.

Next years DipCon committee consists of Ed Wrobel as Chair, Ken Peel and me. Except that I have already resigned and nominated Pete Gaughan as my replacement. Had I beaten out Ed or Ken I would have stayed on the committee, but Pete has earned a place on that committee for as long as he wants one, as far as I am concerned. His performance in the past two years has shown both his ability and dedication, and he wanted to serve again, so I am stepping aside to let him. Maybe I'll run again next year.

GEORGE WILL

FALL 1902

MOVES:

AUSTRIA A Tri - Vie (dis. ANN), A BUD S A TRI (OTM)
 ENGLAND A Edi - LIV, A NWY H, F BEL H (F NTH S), F ENG - Mid
 FRANCE A BRE H, A Bur -Mar, A TYO -Ven, F WES -Tun, F NAO - Mid
 GERMANY F Hel - DEN (A KIE S), A MUN - Boh, A SIL - Pru
 ITALY A Pie - MAR (F LYO S), F APU - NAP, A TUS - VEN
 RUSSIA A Liv - PRU (A WAR S), A Fin - SWE, F Den H (Ret. Bal, Ska, OTB), F SEV - Rum, A RUM - Bud, (A VIE S), A BOH S A Vie
 TURKEY A Ser - TRI (A ALB S), A Bul - SER, F ION - Tun, F EAS - Ion (F AEG S)

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

AUSTRIA	BUD, tri, vie-----	1 --
ENGLAND	Home, Nwy, Bel-----	5 --
FRANCE	Par, Bre, Spa, Por, mar-----	4 -1
GERMANY	HOME Hol, DEN -----	5 +1
ITALY	Home, Tun, MAR-----	5 +1
RUSSIA	Home, Rum, Swe, VIE, den, bud-----	7 -1
TURKEY	Home, Bul, Ser, Gre, TRI-----	7 +1

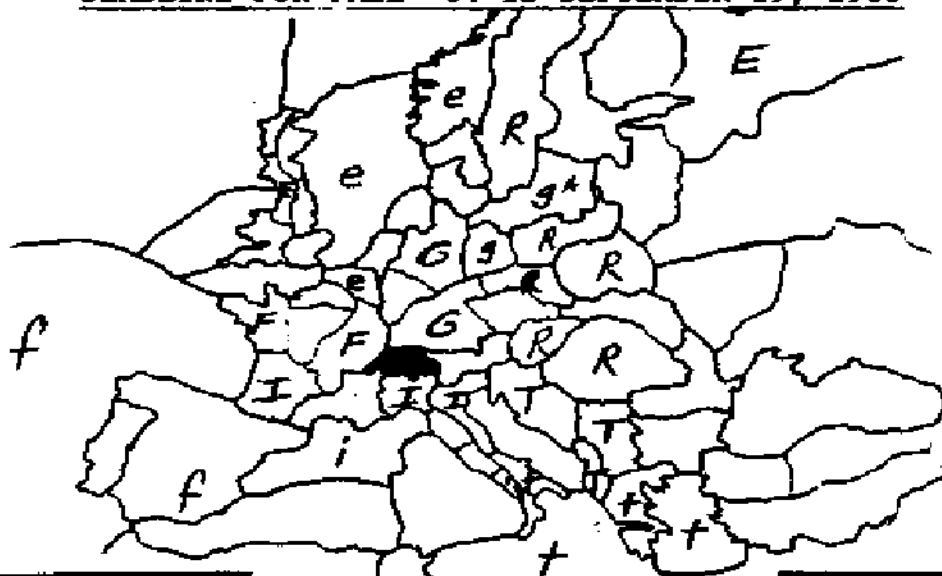
WINTER 1903

FRANCE Remove Army Tyrolia
 GERMANY Build Fleet Berlin
 ITALY Build Army Venice
 RUSSIA Retreat Fleet Denmark to Baltic; Remove Fleet Sevastopol
 TURKEY Build Fleet Constantinople

SPRING 1904

AUSTRIA A Bud - Rum(Ret. Gal, OTB)
 ENGLAND A LIV H, A Nwy - STP, F Nth - NWY, F Eng - NTH (F BEL S)
 FRANCE A BRE H, A BUR - Mar, F Wes - SPA, F Nao - MID
 GERMANY A Sil - Boh (dis. ANN) (A MUN S), A KIE - Den, F Den - BAL(F BER S)
 ITALY A Tus - PIE, A VEN H, F LYO - Mar, F NAP H, A Mar - GAS
 RUSSIA A Boh - SIL (A PRU, A WAR S), A Rum - BUD (A VIE S), A SWE - Den, F Bal S Pru (Ret. Bot, Liv, OTB)
 TURKEY F Ion - APU, F Aeg - GRE, F Eas - ION, F Con - AEG, A SER S Rus A Rum - BUD, A TRI - Ven, A ALB - Tri

DEADLINE FOR FALL '04 IS SEPTEMBER 19, 1985



HODDING CARTER, III

SPRING 1901

AUSTRIA F Tri - ALB, A Bud - SER, A VIE - Gal
 ENGLAND F Edi - NTH, F Lon - ENG, A Liv - WAL
 FRANCE A Par - BUR (A MAR S), F Bre - MID
 GERMANY A Ber - KIE, F Kie - DEN, A Mun - RUH
 ITALY A Rom - APU, A VEN H, F Nap - ION
 RUSSIA F Stp - BOT, A Mos - UKR, F SEV - Bla, A WAR - Gal
 TURKEY A Con - BUL, A Smy - CON, F ANK - Bla

FALL 1901

AUSTRIA F Alb - GRE (A SER S), A Vie - GAL
 ENGLAND A Wal - BRE (F ENG C), F Nth - NWY
 FRANCE A Bur - BEL, A Mar - SPA, F Mid - POR
 GERMANY F DEN H, A Ruh - MUN, A Kie - HOL
 ITALY A APU - TUN (F ION C), A Ven - TRI
 RUSSIA A WAR H, F Bot - SWE, F Sev - RUM (A UKR S)
 TURKEY A Con - SMY, F Ank - BLA, A BUL - Rum

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

AUSTRIA	Bud, Vie, SER, GRE, tri-----	4 +1
ENGLAND	Home, NWY, BRE-----	5 +2
FRANCE	Par, Mar, SPA, POR, BEL, bre-----	5 +2
GERMANY	Home, HOL, DEN-----	5 +2
ITALY	Home, TUN, TRI-----	5 +2
RUSSIA	Home, RUM, SWE,-----	6 +2
TURKEY	Home, BUL, -----	4 +1

DEADLINE FOR WINTER 01 and SPRING 02 is SEPTEMBER 19, 1905



LETTER COLUMN

Here is a letter from Bruce Linsey with his comments on my Foreign policy ideas.

In the latest issue of FF, you offered the opinion that there isn't a country in the world that wouldn't be better off as a state in the Union. For whatever reason, you seemed to think that this would provoke a negative response. Why? In my opinion, you are 100% correct; moreover, the world as a whole would be far better off if all the nations were part of the U.S.

Sadly, we missed our one great opportunity to pull this off with little resistance. That was in 1945, just after Japan surrendered. We had nuclear weapons; no one else did. Now, this end would have to be achieved through diplomacy and lots of bloody warfare. But think of the advantages!

A world united under one democratic government would (in theory) be a world at peace. Uncivilized splinter groups such as the Shiite terrorists and the PLO could be hunted down and decimated by our armed forces much more easily if they were operating on U.S. soil and if we were not threatened by Soviet retaliation. English could be taught initially as a second language, then as the primary language, and, within 50 years, as the only language. There would be no competition for oil, and the space program could operate at a leisurely pace, with peaceful ends only. Programs could be instituted to feed, house, and educate the people of Ethiopia and other underdeveloped states. All the money that now goes into our armed forces could be better spent to fund such programs, with only a residual world task force to maintain peace in potential trouble spots (e.g. the Middle East). Best of all, no one would have to go to sleep every night wondering whether he will perish in a nuclear war the next day.

Unfortunately, I see no way of accomplishing such a goal in the present day world. Backward countries like the U.S.S.R. and China notwithstanding, we'd probably have a whale of a battle just getting nations like Canada and Australia to join us. The whole idea is a nice, but unrealistic, dream.

<<Again I must emphasize that I do not advocate an armed takeover. The Philippines should have taught us that lesson, if nothing else. The way we have settled every other state is through a massive immigration of US citizens into the area, then having them take control of the industry and government, and then ask for annexation. The same principle could work now.

Another idea would be to withdraw all aid and only grant it to countries who become protectorates of the US. That could easily lead to annexation, if it didn't lead to a war right after we withdraw the aid. In any case, the first step is to reduce the power of the Federal government to its constitutional levels of providing for a common defense and regulating interstate commerce. Until that is accomplished we can forget about any kind of expansion. Several states already want to secede! Thanks for writing Bruce; I missed you at DipCon. I wanted a milk shake!

Our only other letter came from Russ Blau.>>

As a new subscriber, I feel I must have missed something in the political debates. I must say your viewpoint and philosophy are not always clear to me. On page 12<<issue 14>> you say "I did not say that we should forcibly incorporate modern nations into the US." Then 3 lines later, "Right after WWII though, it could have been easily accomplished and (emphasis added) probably

should have. Which is it Greg? Or does 1945 not qualify as "modern" times?

Also, I shouldn't have to tell you this as a Texan -- the US did not incorporate Texas by force. In fact, the Texans pestered us for 8 years or so to let them in, but northern members of Congress opposed to the expansion of slavery blocked the move. Even in 1845 Polk couldn't get 2/3 of the Senate to ratify a treaty of union, so he had Texas admitted to the US by a joint resolution (which only needed a majority).

Why are "liberal" student aid programs any more acceptable when run by the states than by the Federal government?

<<I will address the last question first. Even though the Federal government doesn't believe it, somebody has to pay for these programs, 99% of it comes from domestic tax payers. (I am guessing on that figure because I have no idea how much we raise from profits taxes on exported goods.) If all the people in the country are going to pay for them, then why not have a government closer and more responsive to the people run them? The only reason for the Federal government to pay for something is so that they can give more money to some states than they collect from those states, and less to others. How can that be justified?

The second problem with Federal funding is the yo-yo effect. Every dollar has a string attached. Our highway funds have been threatened unless we pass legislation raising the drinking age, just as it was when they wanted a national 55 MPH speed limit. Education funds have restrictions; Welfare funds have restrictions; even the "Revenue Sharing" funds have restrictions. What a great "newspeak" term! They extort the money from us, then "Share" it with us! I graduated from a school district that will never have to bus its students because it doesn't take any federal money. And they are damned proud of it. Before any Boardmans out there start screaming racist, I want you to know that they now have a 20% Asian population and it is fully integrated. The Fed wants them to bus in blacks from Houston Independent School District and bus an equal number of whites out to HISD. How would you like to pay an extra \$10,000 for a home in the top rated school district in the state, then have your kid chosen as one of those to be bussed to HISD, which boasts three of the states worst high schools?

My philosophy is this: let the people who benefit from a program pay for it. If it benefits Texans, then the state of Texas should tax its citizens to pay for it. The less government there is, the better. Some government is obviously necessary, but I want to have control over that government, so the closer it is to me the better I like it. Congressmen tend to get reelected as often as they like; State Representatives are frequently fired, and therefore much more responsive. Enough preaching. Read the letters on 11 and 12.

That's it for this letter column. Jake tells me he has an editorial, which can be answered here if you so desire. Knowing Jake, I am sure that I will have something to say.



Carfield

ZWILNIKS

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

AUSTRIA	vie, tri, bud-----	0 -1
ENGLAND	Home, Nwy, Bel, DEN, HOL, POR-----	8 +3
FRANCE	Home, Spa, por -----	4 -1
GERMANY	ber, kie, hol, mun -----	0 -4
ITALY	Home, Tun, MUN, TRI -----	6 +2
RUSSIA	Home, Rum, Swe, BUD, SER, KIE, VIE, BUL, den	12 +4
TURKEY	Home, Gre, ser, bul-----	4 -1

RETREATS FALL 1903

AUSTRIA NMR! Retreat Fleet Trieste Off The Board
 GERMANY NMR! Retreats Army Munich Off The Board
 ITALY Retreats Fleet Ionian Off The Board
 TURKEY Retreats Army Bulgaria Off The Board

WINTER BUILDS 1903

Seasons are separated on two requests, and by the fact that I didn't list Italy as being plus two and at six centers. Not one of you pointed out the mistake, although as you can see Italy did send in the appropriate builds. Press is held over until the Spring season.

AUSTRIA NMR! No units left to remove.
 ENGLAND (Stephen Wilcox 5300 West Gulf Bank #103, Houston TX 77088) Builds Fleet Liverpool, Fleet London, Army Edinburgh. Also has Fleets in Denmark, North Sea, Holland, and Portugal, and Army Belgium.
 FRANCE *(Larry Peery Box 8416, San Diego CA 92102) NMR! GM removes Fleet North Africa. Has Armies Paris, Ruhr and Tuscany, and Fleet North Africa.
 GERMANY NMR! GM removes all remaining units
 ITALY (Steve Arnawoodian, 602 Hemlock Circle, Lansdale PA 19446) Builds Army Venice, Fleet Naples, Fleet Rome. Also has Fleet Tunis, and Armies Munich and Trieste.
 RUSSIA (Ronald Spitzer 761 N. Bundy Drive, Los Angeles CA 90049) Builds Armies in Moscow, Sevastopol, Warsaw, and St. Petersburg. Also has Fleets Kiel and Rumania, and Armies Berlin, Bulgaria, Serbia, Silesia, Prussia, and Vienna.
 TURKEY (Tom Boyd 17018 Via Tomar, San Lorenzo CA 94580) Removes Fleet Albania (imp., even due to retreat OTB). Has Fleets Albania, Aegean and Ionian, and Army Constantinople.

September 19

DEADLINE FOR SPRING '04 IS ~~SEPTEMBER~~, 1985

Standby for FRANCE is Steve Langley 2296 Eden Roc Lane, Sacramento CA 95825. For Larry to get back in the game I need Spring moves and another \$5 NMR deposit. I have some form of moves on file for all the other players. Thanks for standing by Steve. Conrad tells me that the eliminated players will be getting their deposits back when he gets back here in October. FF, by the way, DOES accept charitable contributions!?!

<<The following is a letter that I wrote for my boss to send to the Congressman from Texas. I sent a similar letter, and a copy of it follows this. The difference in length is because they are very likely going to read a letter from a State Representative, but not mine. Both letters were individualized to the Congressman, but I have made them generic here.>>

Dear Congressman:

A recent report from the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations stated that the Republicans on the House Committee on Ways and Means were backing down on the President's proposal to eliminate the deduction for state and local taxes. This letter is to encourage you to support the President's proposal.

Every source I have seen since the proposal was first announced has pointed out that the growth states with low tax burdens are carrying a disproportionately large share of the federal tax load. On average Texans pay more in Federal taxes than 47 other states. A recent newsletter from the Honorable Gib Lewis, Speaker of the Texas House, shows a majority of states would benefit if deductibility is repealed and tax rates reduced. A copy of that report is enclosed.

The arguments against the repeal of deductibility generally fall into two categories, neither of which are valid.

1) It will keep poor people from purchasing homes, because the deduction of property taxes helps lower the price of a new home.

Actually, very few poor people can purchase homes anyway, and almost none of them itemize deductions. The best way to help the poor and lower to middle income families to purchase homes is to let them keep more of the money they earn. This proposal is actually one of the most progressive tax proposals, because it will affect those in lower income brackets much less than it does the upper brackets.

2) The National Conference of State Legislatures has mailed out literature saying that the states were being asked to contribute more than their fair share of the tax reform.

The fact is that they are taking more than their fair share now. To say that it is unfair to force them to give back something they shouldn't have in the first place is ludicrous!

For too long the states have been leaning on the federal government for support. There are only two reasons why the Federal government should fund something rather than having the states fund it themselves:

1) it is of national concern and benefits all the states collectively (e.g. Defense), and

2) to transfer money from one state to another (e.g. Food Stamps).

The first is a legitimate purpose; the second is not. The deductibility of state and local taxes is just one way that second goal can be achieved and should be eliminated. I believe these principles are consistent with Republican goals and philosophies. I urge you to support them.

I hope you have had a good vacation, and if I may ever be of service to you or your staff please do not hesitate to call. Thank you for your time.

Dear Congressman:

Thank you for your time.

Naturally I welcome your comments.

The text of the Amendment is as follows:

Now I am not one for amending the constitution willy nilly, but this is a good amendment. At this very moment the legislatures of Wisconsin and New Jersey are considering ratification. It was introduced in 1789, and has been ratified by 14 or 15 states since then. The first was Maryland in 1790, the latest was Tennessee last month. I hope you can support this as well.

That's about it for this issue. I did warn all of you that it was going to be political, didn't I? If any of you have comments to make you are welcome to make them here. As evidence I present the High Plainz Gonzo. If I will print that, saying that America's worst enemy is the Republican party, then I will print anything! Well, almost anything.

That might have been a mistake. Just for the record, I will not print anything that starts out, "I am a junior at a small midwestern college, and I never thought I would be writing a letter like this." So don't send any.

P.S. How do you like the new covers?

high plainz gonzo

Well, and why not? I ran out of essences, and figured the show must go on.

Who figures out the number of letters that go on a sheet of Chartpak Velvet Touch Lettering? I use 36-point Souvenir Bold, for those of you who were dying to know.

I suppose they use a frequency chart, the letters used more often get the big play on the transparencies. If I remember correctly, the list be-

gins E-T-A-O-I-N. And, I have at least one of all those letters left. In two sheets of letter transfers I have yet to use a V or a J (and believe me, there are times when I could use a J).

These should be gravy days for me. Sue's nearing the end of an eight-day visit to Ohio, so I'm playing bachelor for a while. I stocked the refrigerator with steaks, rainbow trout and beer, and decided to see how I'd do. I quit making the bed, wash the dishes once in a while, and keep the hours I choose.

Big deal. She gets home Tuesday night, and things will be a lot better here.

Sat up and watched "The Adventures of Mark Twain," a 1940ish movie Saturday night. Good show for something of that era. I think most of the new movies--and the new music--are for the birds.

Where am I going with this? Beats the hell out of me. What with the confusion about the deadlines, I find myself without orders from several players, including our publisher. Indeed, I got my mid-monthly--which included the official deadline--two days after said deadline.

Send 'em in, we'll try again next issue.

Speaking of things fouled up, was your FF kind of inside-out? My copy's pages came in this order: 1, 4, 3, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 10, 9, 12.

Well, Greg's got nothing on me, I recall doing a Gonzo one time, and half the pages came out upside-down.

Say, Dipcon went down over the weekend. I wonder if the folks who went had a good time? I've been to two cons in Denver, and am frankly in no hurry to go to another one. Perhaps the locale has been the problem, but I found that a great number of the participants were real pencil-necked geeks.

Hell, maybe a lot of you are pencil-necked geeks, but I doubt it. I think the nature of play-by-mail gaming cuts down

on the number of zipoids among us. We have to be able to write intelligently, to make clever proposal, and generally do more than drool and push pieces.

Maybe the people who can afford to get to Seattle are able to dress themselves.

Now, as long as I have all this space that I'm expected to fill, I thought I might as well get a few kicks in on this go-'round the Messrs. Coughlan and Ellis are having, especially since Greg took a couple of shots at me in the mid-monthly.

As you can probably guess, I go pretty much down the line with Gary in this instance, though I'd remind him that the Japanese aren't patrolling the Straits of Hormuz because we demilitarized them at the end of World War II, and it would seem that their tradition of home-defense-forces-only is most likely a tough one to break.

Greg says our only real enemy is the Soviet Union, but I'd put them third on the list. I think we have more to worry about from what I'd call the "crazy states"--and Libya is one that leaps to mind--the ones who have the money and the cunning to throw us a situation we can't handle. Could Qaddafi light the match to start the final conflagration? I think so.

North Vietnam whipped our ass in the Sixties and Seventies because they were more clever than we were--and damned if they didn't beat us at our own game. It was the Rebels vs. Redcoats revisited, playing the home field advantage to the hilt. We beat the Brits with guerilla war in '76, and the North Viets turned it around on us.

We--and I mean the Soviets and the Americans--are so far ahead of everyone else from a military standpoint that the rule book has been thrown in the fire. What can you do to fight terrorism, the ultimate in guerilla warfare? We've seen the case in Lebanon, the Soviets see it in Afghanistan.

But I digress. Our second biggest enemy, from my point of view, is ourselves. As I've said several times before, I expect to live to see another civil war, and that could truly mean the end of America as we know and occasionally love it. As the middle class is decimated by Reaganomics, we set the stage for a battle between the haves and have nots.

Aren't you guys paying attention, can't you see the erosion of our rights that is going down even now? Greg brought up the point about the press being excluded from the operation in Grenada (and he obviously is not aware of the ABC footage of the Rapid Deployment Force and its departure from MacDill AFB in Tampa, as it made its way to Grenada). Even the people on the island knew the invasion was coming? Fine, and I remember a fortnight in November 1984 when La Voz de Nicaragua suspended its regular shortwave service in order to prepare for

the imminent incursion by US Marines! Give enough monkeys enough typewriters and they'll write the works of Shakespeare, for God's sake!

If we have a leadership that chooses to ignore or offer their own interpretation of the Constitution, if they're going to choose to throw Jefferson and Adams and Franklin and Madison and Hamilton and Jay on the dungheap, I think we've got something very big to worry about.

"An inherent weakness of the system is the necessity of allowing the opposition to operate completely within the system." Remember these words of Greg, because I think they spring from the very root of the amorality I see permeating the neo-conservative Republican viewpoint that he espouses. He tapdances through Nazis in Illinois (the Skokie march, Greg?) and Communists in Alabama (I miss that point), but I wonder if we are to ignore the loyal opposition Democrats or just anyone who doesn't fit into the neat two-party system. Would you jail a third-party candidate, Greg?--and when surveys show a sizeable number of our secondary school students think third-party candidates are operating illegally, I'm led to wonder where we are going--isn't this a case when the opposition is operating completely within the system? Haven't we always had room in the system for all points of view?

Greg is also ready to pass the tragic loss of 260 Marines off onto "congressional meddling," but fails to note that the Sept. 28, 1983 passage of the War Powers Resolution for US participation in the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon came about because Reagan and the conservatives wanted it.

If you'll check the vote totals, you'll see Republicans went for the notion in Congress by a 140-27 margin, and conservative Southern Democrats passed it by 60-29. We'll also bear in mind that the five members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff opposed an American presence in Lebanon by a 5-0 margin.

It isn't "congressional meddling," but rather Reagan fiat, that targeted cuts from the FY 1986 budget for a number of socially oriented projects. Gone, not reduced, are to be \$3.4 billion in general revenue sharing, money that goes to such evil projects as public works. Gone is \$2.3 billion in rural housing loans. Gone is almost a billion in postal funding. Forget three-quarters of a billion for urban mass transit, we'll burn more gasoline in private cars that so many Americans can't really afford. Chalk Amtrak down as history, let the airlines move into Beatrice, Nebraska or Greeley, Colorado.

Hey, let's not forget the end of \$282,000,000 for the Legal Services Corporation, which provides counsel for the poor in non-criminal cases. What matter is it that federal funds allocated for legal aid for the poor in the entire state of Delaware amounted to \$533,510 in 1985, when the Reagan regime plunked down \$472,190 for fat Ed Meese to cover legal expenses incurred in his Ethics Act inquiry?

But, for God's sake, don't mess with the defense budget. Sign a contract for 3,000 copies of the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle (which pits spun aluminum against armor-piercing shells) at \$686,000 each, and take delivery at a cool \$1.5 million each.

I dare you to take out the calculator. Yes, it's \$2.4 billion in rural housing loans we pissed away there.

And I get this picture of thirty thousand GIs in 'Vettes and Trans Ams, armed to the tits with bazookas and armor-piercers, and wonder which is the better buy.

Think that might win some votes in Detroit?

So, who's the enemy? The Russians, who can't even knock off a two-bit rughead country on their own doorstep in five years of fighting? A group of intelligent, civilized but worthy adversaries in the world arena? A fairly stable crowd who will shake the dice once in a while when it comes to the affairs of the world? People who could--but haven't--fry every one of us and still have the nukes to rattle the rubble?

Or is it the party of the elephant, who have renounced a long-standing pledge that Americans would not be the first to employ nuclear weapons to protect McDonald's, the New York Yankees and "Miami Vice?" The guys who would have smoked Hanoi, Haiphong, Beijing or Moscow to prop up a military dictatorship in a jerkwater Southeast Asian country? Those wonderful folks who would ixnay money to repair water systems and bridges, loans to hopeful rural homeowners, money to keep buses and trolleys running? That time and again would ban the Beach Boys from the Washington Mall?

Know thy enemy, my friends.

((Greg here. I guess Jake left me this space for a reply. Well, I think I will wait until next issue, so you get a cartoon instead.))

Bloom County

