

ISSUE 16

September 23, 1985

(512) 343-8202

Just after having said that I wasn't going to carry Dip news, I got a particularly worthy announcement. If you haven't heard, Diplomacy World is bankrupt. Larry Peery has taken over as Managing Editor and Publisher and has announced that they are broke. He is polling the subbers and the Hobby at large to see what we want to do with it, choosing between folding and your basic chapter 11 bankruptcy.

In order to keep the zine operational Larry is suggesting that all subscriptions be forgiven, that as many people as possible contribute money toward paying for the publication of issues 40 and 41, and for 300 people to re-subscribe at a rate of \$12 per year. In addition, they will be selling advertisements. Larry has started what he calls a 20/20 club, which is a \$12 subscription and an \$8 donation. Checks should be made payable to Diplomacy World and mailed to Larry Peery, Box 8416, San Diego CA 92102. In addition, he is accepting donated services. He wants a lot of publicity in zines (someone donating enough for an ad or run of ads in The General and other game magazines would be nice), or perhaps coupons for free issues, if you pub, or free game openings. There are many ways that people can contribute, not the least of which is a suggestion on how to keep the zine alive. The more people who participate the better the end product will be. The final decision on the fate of the zine will be made October 15, 1985, so let your voice be heard.

They are, as always, looking for additional contributors of Diplomacy and Variant articles. These items should be sent to Kathy Byrne, 29-10 164th St., Flushing NY 11358.

The central question, though, has to be whether or not the thing is worth saving. Is it the flagship zine of the hobby or not? Is a flagship zine needed? Is it helpful? Personally, I think DW is worth saving. I am angry that it would get into this kind of shape to begin with, but there is no use crying over spilled milk. If all of my subbers send in \$20 then they will have \$1000 to get restarted with, so it really doesn't take much from each of us. I am encouraged that they will be selling, and hopefully actively seeking, ads. That is the only way to maintain a viable magazine.

I have a few ideas I would like discussed. First, if it is at all possible to create a non-profit educational organization to oversee the business of Diplomacy World then it should be done. Larry is asking for a lot of money to just hand somebody without any proper controls. Besides, unless the congress sees the light and passes some sort of tax reform, we could all deduct our donations! I also wanted to see DIPCON incorporated; maybe it would be possible to combine the two. DIPCON is generally a money making venture, the profits of which are usually given to the BNC. The profits could instead be used to help subsidize DW.

As I said before, I think we all became aware of the problem much too late, and furthermore, we put too much pressure on one person to get the zine put together and mailed. This little reg is difficult enough as it is! I heartily sympathize with Rod and others who have had to try and publish DW. If DW is truly the hobby's zine, then we should be more involved in the day to day operations. Certainly this hard choice of folding could have been avoided. We have a committee of three running DIPCON, why not the same for DW? It doesn't always work for DIPCON (Dallas), but it should work better than one!

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

DUE NEXT TURN: (FF only!)

Media bids and Spotlight issues in Virginia; maintain whatever organizations that you have already set up; seven days travel. Possible issues: Energy Mobilization on 5 or higher.

TIME FACTOR NOW STANDS AT: 51 (FF) and (HPG)

NEXT DATE TO CHECK THE DJIA: October 3, 1985 (FF) and (HPG)

DEADLINE: (PF) October 17, 1985 (HPG) October 12, 1985

High Plains Gonzo will be sending out some corrections for the Democrats, and Jake says that he currently has orders on file for all the Democrats, but they are welcome to change them. This next issue will also contain his decision concerning the General Election rules for the HPG game. I think he is going to use the same rules that I am, so the HPG players need to find issue 14 and pull out the center two pages. Should Jake decide to try something different he will print up his rules next time.

[illegible]

STRATEGY

Rather than try to get my usual commentary done here, in the newspaper style, I am going to write up a few comments on the strategy for playing this game.

First and foremost, you need to watch how you spend your money. So far we have seen two Democrats and two Republicans drop out of the race because they just over spent (I am counting James Wall who has only one CPP left). As in just about any endeavor, you need to set some goals at the beginning of the game and then write up a plan as to how you can achieve those goals. If you think you can garner 30% of the vote in every election then figure out about how much that should net you in contributions, then make out a budget. Most players apparently start out with the Travel, which is fairly constant, then organization costs, and finally the media bids. If an election is just too expensive then skip it. Don't throw away good money on a lost cause.

It is amazing how many people don't pay proper attention to the issues. In one election we had three candidates all spotlight a bad issue. If they didn't pick one that actually hurt them, they didn't choose the best by far. You cannot count on just the number of for and against votes. Just because you are the only candidate to come out for a proposition in your party doesn't mean it is your best issue. An excellent example is the spotlight Ty used this time. He chose Panama, which he was against along with Dave and James. Only Dan was For. Dan got 67 votes, the others all got 111. Clearly, if Ty was trying to hurt Dan, this was a good issue, yet Dan had the lone For stand! This is even more critical with the open primary in Texas coming up. You have to take into account everyone's stands!

A lot of money has been wasted in travel. Not to pick on Ty, but he actually told me that he didn't want to use the three days of travel at the beginning of this weeks campaign. Why not park your candidate in Richmond for all four days instead of just one, Ty? James didn't do much better, having travelled into Houston and other Texas cities at least twice now. This is the easiest area of the game to plan for, yet it is almost the most abused.

Then there are the organizations. Organizing for more than a few weeks isn't cost effective. The returns diminish rapidly; after 4 weeks you have 87% of the available votes, and each successive

week nets less than 5%. Although there may be psychological reasons for closing an organization early, the cost is very high. Dan lost a lot of votes by closing and then reopening his Texas organization. You should figure out how many weeks you want, and then whether or not you can pay for it. The key to winning this game is planning, and organizations are easily planned. If you open your organization one week behind your opponent then the most you will lose is 24% of the total votes available, probably less.

Finally, we have media bids. I have never seen any benefit from making several bids at successively higher amounts. I have tried it and others have tried it here. What's the point? Make X number of bids all at the same amount. Don't bid for more than you can afford to win. Since you will never need to get all ten to win the election the most you should ever bid for is six (one more than your closest possible opponent). Very early in the game people stop bidding for all the available media, which is why the '84 version will have an updated media system. People still ended up paying out more than necessary for media by bidding higher than minimum.

Most of the players can chock up their position, good or bad, to one of two things: lucky guesses (very few!), or planning. Hopefully each party will learn from the mistakes of the past, and do a good job of targeting voters and planning out general election strategies. I will be printing up where everybody stands in the general election pretty soon, to assist in the determination of tickets at the convention.

I am hoping to open up a game of the '84 version in January or February. It is going to be easier to play, and more expensive! Let me know now if you are interested, and I would also like to hear your criticisms of how this game was run. Any suggestions on how to improve this are welcome.

Specific game notes: As I mentioned above, James is now at 1 CFP and can spend up to 68 CFP in the Virginia election. If he spends that much or less, and wins all the available CFPs he is still in the game. If not he goes broke and can no longer travel or buy media, and all organizations close immediately. James can spotlight issues in any election he has already entered. Dan Young reopened his Texas organization. Ty pointed out to me that he made his Oil Import Fee decision during this turn, and it was based on the fact that I had shown Dan and James both against instead of for. So he has changed his stand on that issue to against (you opportunist!), but that is not effective until Virginia. Had anyone used that as a spotlight then he would have been stuck with a for, even though it was my mistake.

On the Democrats side not much really happened. Mark has the most delegates, but the least money. Wilcox has the most money, but is only four delegates ahead of Jake. I have a feeling this convention is going to be a real headache! I hope that Jim and Pete are still paying attention, because one of these three may be close enough to grab one of them as VP and get the nomination. That would hurt the Democrats in the general election some, but is still feasible. Remember that the players who went out early did so because they spent a lot of money in the early elections. Consequently, they are still strong candidates in those states, and some of that carries over to the General Election.

If any of you have questions on the General Election, get them to me soon. I don't want to be making announcements and changes too close to the election. Dick Martin's delegates should have already been added to the surviving candidates totals.

NORTH PLAINS REGIONAL CAUCUS

HALVERSTADT BESTS LARZELERE; GAINS ON WILCOX

CANDIDATE	JIM	PETE	JAKE	MARK	STEPHEN
ISSUES:					
Nicaragua	+ *	+ *	+324	- 36	- 36
IDB	+ *	+ *	+ 72	-252	+ 72
Housing	- *	+ *	+162	? 72	+162
DECISION BONUS	*	*	78		78
SPOTLIGHT ISSUE	----	----	Nicaragua	IDB	Housing
VISITS:days/votes					
St. Paul	*	*	4.7/126	3/ 80	*
Omaha	*	*	1 / 19	2/ 39	*
Wichita	*	*	1 / 13	2/ 27	*
ORGANIZATION:					
weeks/votes	*	*	5/166	3/141	*
MOMENTUM BONUS:				95	
MEDIA:					
Votes			95		
number/cost			1/ 35		
TOTAL VOTES:	*	*	1055	742	348
PERCENTAGE:	*	*	49.18	34.59	16.22
DELEGATES:	*	*	99	70	-0-
CFP GAINED:	*	*	59	41	-0-
BALANCE	<72>	<12>	618	460	678
This week					
SPENT	-0-	-0-	<126>	<61>	<60>
GAINED	-0-	-0-	59	41	-0-
BALANCE	<72>	<12>	551	440	618
Available Funds	-0-	-0-	618	507	685
TRAVEL:					
DAY 1	*	*	STPaul	STPaul	Dallas
DAY 2	*	*	"	"	"
DAY 3	*	*	Omaha	"	"
DAY 4	*	*	Wichita	Omaha	"
DAY 5	*	*	Dallas	"	"
DAY 6	*	*	"	Wichita	"
DAY 7	*	*	"	"	"
ORGANIZATIONS:					
Virginia	2 (-4)	N	4	N	1
Texas	4 (-4)	N	1	N	1
Michigan	2 (-4)	N	1	N	N
Maryland	N	N	1	N	N
Rocky Mountains	N	N	2	N	N
DECLARED FOR:					
Texas	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Virginia	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Rocky Mountains	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Michigan	N	N	Y	Y	N
Maryland	N	N	Y	Y	N
California	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Ohio	N	N	Y	Y	Y
TOTAL DELEGATES:	260	313	447	591	451

NORTH PLAINS REGIONAL CAUCUS

YOUNG WINS AS OTHERS ABDICATE

CANDIDATE	DAVE	TY	JAMES	DAN
ISSUES:				
Dom Spend	-134	+ 67	-134	+ 67
Food Stamps	- 34	- 34	+167	+167
Panama	-111	-111	-111	+67
Oil Import	-	-	+	+
Housing	?	-	-	-
SPOTLIGHT ISSUE	----	Panama	Dom Spend	Food Stamps
VISITS: days/votes				
Dan Young was the only candidate to travel in North Plains. He therefore gets all votes				/382
ORGANIZATION:				
weeks/votes	-0-	3/141	1(-1)/ 43	2/113
MOMENTUM BONUS:		95		
MEDIA:				
votes	-0-	-0-	-0-	190
Number/cost	-0-	-0-	-0-	2/ 64
TOTAL VOTES:	279	448	455	988
PERCENTAGE:	12.86	20.65	20.97	45.53
DELEGATES:	-0-	23	23	84
CFP GAINED:	-0-	24	24	52
BALANCE	<23>	283	65	470
This Week				
SPENT	-0-	<66>	<88>	<159>
GAINED	-0-	24	24	52
BALANCE	<23>	241	1	363
Available Funds	-0-	308	68	430
TRAVEL:				
DAY 1	*	*	Dallas	St. Paul
DAY 2	*	*	Houston	"
DAY 3	*	*	El Paso	Omaha
DAY 4	*	Richmond	Beaumont	Omaha/Wichita
DAY 5	*	Norfolk	Corpus	Roanok/Newport
DAY 6	*	"	Detroit	Richmond
DAY 7	*	Newport	"	Norfolk
ORGANIZATIONS:				
Virginia	3(-2)	2	N	3
Texas	4(-1)	N	5	reopened 3(-1)
Rocky Mountains	N	N	N	1
Michigan	N	N	3	N
Kentucky	N	N	N	N
California	N	N	2	N
DECLARED FOR:				
Virginia	Y	Y	Y	Y
Texas	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rocky Mountains	N	Y	Y	Y
Michigan	N	N	Y	Y
Maryland	N	N	N	Y
California	N	Y	Y	Y
Ohio	N	Y	Y	Y
TOTAL DELEGATES:	191	337	320	311

GEORGE WILL

Last time I neglected to mention that the R/T Draw failed by a vote of
2 For, 2 Against, and 3 No Vote Received. No new proposals.

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

FALL 1904

The German player noticed that A SIL could have retreated to GAL,
but was retreated OTB anyway. The Austrian was notified about
the possible German retreat before submitting orders.

AUSTRIA (A Bud r GAL); A GAL H
ENGLAND A Liv - EDI, F Bel - NTH, F Nth - SKA, F NWY - Stp, A STP
- Mos
FRANCE F SPA H (F MID S), A BRE - Gas, A BUR - PAR
GERMANY (A Sil r OTB), F BER H (A KIE S), F BAL - Den, A MUN -
Boh
ITALY A PIE - Ven, A GAS - Par, A Ven - APU (F NAP S), F Lyo -
MAR
RUSSIA (F Bal r LIV), A BUD H, A War - MOS, A VIE - Boh, F LIV -
Bal, A SWE - Den, A PRU - Ber (A SIL S)
TURKEY F Ion - TUN, F Gre - ION (F AEG S), A Ser - TRI (A ALB
S), A TRI - Ven (F APU S (Ret. ADR, OTB))

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

AUSTRIA	bud	-----	0	-1
ENGLAND	Home, Nwy, Bel	-----	5	--
FRANCE	Par, Bre, Spa, Por,	-----	4	--
GERMANY	HOME Hol, Den	-----	5	-- (no rum)
ITALY	Home, Mar, tun	-----	4	-1
RUSSIA	Home, Rum, Swe, Vie, BUD,	-----	8	+1
TURKEY	Home, Bul, Ser, Gre, Tri, TUN	-----	8	+1

DEADLINE FOR WINTER 04 & SPRING 05 IS October 3, 1985

*Sorry, no map. Ran out of room.
Not much proofing either -- be kind!*



HODDING CARTER, III

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

WINTER 1901 BUILDS

AUSTRIA Army Vienna
ENGLAND Fleet London and Fleet Liverpool
FRANCE Fleet Marseilles and Army Paris
GERMANY Army Berlin and Army Kiel
ITALY Army Venic and Fleet Rome
RUSSIA Fleet Sevastopol and Fleet St. Petersburg (North Coast)
TURKEY Fleet Constantinople

SPRING 1902

AUSTRIA A Gal - BUD (A VIE S), F Gra - BUL (A SER S)
ENGLAND F Nwy S Ger F Den - SWE (NSO) (Ret. Bar, Nwg, Ska, OTB),
F ENG - Mid, A BRE - Gas, F Liv - IRY, F Lon - NTH
FRANCE A Bel - PIC (A BUR S), F POR - Mid, F MAR - Spa, A SPA -
Gas
GERMANY F DEN H, A Ber - KIE, A Kie - RUM, A Hol - BEL, A MUN -
Bur
ITALY F Rom - TYH, A Ven - TYO (A TRI S), F Ion - TUN, A Tun -
NAP
RUSSIA F SEV - Bla (F RUM S (A UKR S)), F Stp - NWY (F SWE S), A
War - MOS
TURKEY F BLA - Sev, A Bul - RUM (Ret. Con, OTB), A SMY H, F Con
- AEG

DEADLINE FOR FALL 1902 IS OCTOBER 3, 1985

Map on page 20.

ZWILNIKS

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

AUSTRIA	via, 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, Ser, BUD, SER, KIE, VIE, BUL, den	12 +4
TURKEY	Home, Gre, ser, bul-----	4 -1

SPRING 1904

RUSSIA GRABS NORWAY; ENGLAND/ITALY MOVE IN ON INERT FRANCE

ENGLAND (Stephen Wilcox 5300 West Gulf Bank #103, Houston TX 77088)
 F Liv - NAT, F Lon - ENG, F Por - SPA, 9
 F Den - KIE (F HOL S), A Edi - BEL (F NTH C), A Bel - PIC 54

FRANCE (Larry Peery Box 8416, San Diego CA 92102)
 A PAR H, A RUH H, A TUS H, F TYH H.

ITALY (Steve Arnawoodian, 602 Hemlock Circle, Lansdale PA 19446)
 A Mun - BUR, A Tri - TYO, F Tun - ION
 (F NAP 5 (A VEN SW Rom, FRANK FNAP

RUSSIA (Ronald Spitzer 761 N. Bundy Drive, Los Angeles CA 90049)
 A Stp - NWY, A War - LIV, A BUL H (A SER S), A Pru - BER
 (A SIL S), A Mos - SEV, A Sev - ARM, A Vie - BUD, F Rum - BLA

TURKEY (Tom Boyd 17018 Via Tomar, San Lorenzo CA 94580)
 F Ion - GRE (F ALB S), F AEG - Bul (A CON S)

DEADLINE FOR FALL 1904 IS OCTOBER 16, 1985

Conrad will now resume his duties as Game Master of ZWILNIKS and begin producing BUTTER BATTLES. So you need to resume sending your orders to him at 3702 Tarragona Lane, Austin TX 78727.

It has been a pleasure running your game for you, what little I ended up doing. I'm just thankful there weren't any major GM errors, but then that depends on your definition of major, doesn't it? This wasn't too bad; maybe I'll open up my very own Dip game. What do you all think? How soon and how much would you be willing to pay? How much is a game of Dip worth? I really am curious, so let me know.

PRESS

Woody - GM Who owns Berlin? How come Vie Bud, Por, Den, Bul, Ser, Kie, Hol, and Mun are owned by two countries? Is this a variant?

GM - Woody Wake up woodhead! ALL CAPS means a center gained; all lower case means a center lost. So every center that has changed hands is listed, showing both the player who lost it and the player who gained it. I did forget Berlin, but since Russia had a fleet there I thought you could figure it out.

Woody - GM How can Germany and Austria NMR when they are out of the game?

GM - Woody They aren't out until after Winter has been played. If it's the money that you are worried about then don't be; I didn't collect for those NMRs.

Woody - GM Where is our map?

GM - Woody For a winter season?

Italy - GM A deadline 10 days after you mailed the results and 6 days after I received them? You're too generous. Two days would be more than enough!

GM - Italy What's the matter? Didn't I give you enough time to ask Kathy what you should do? Why am I putting up with this? Tell your troubles to Conrad!

Woody - CM Where are you Conrad? Come back! Save us from Ellis!

CM - GME How much would it cost me to have you keep this game?

GME - CM More than you have!

Woody - GM I'll be at DipCon in June just to strangle you!

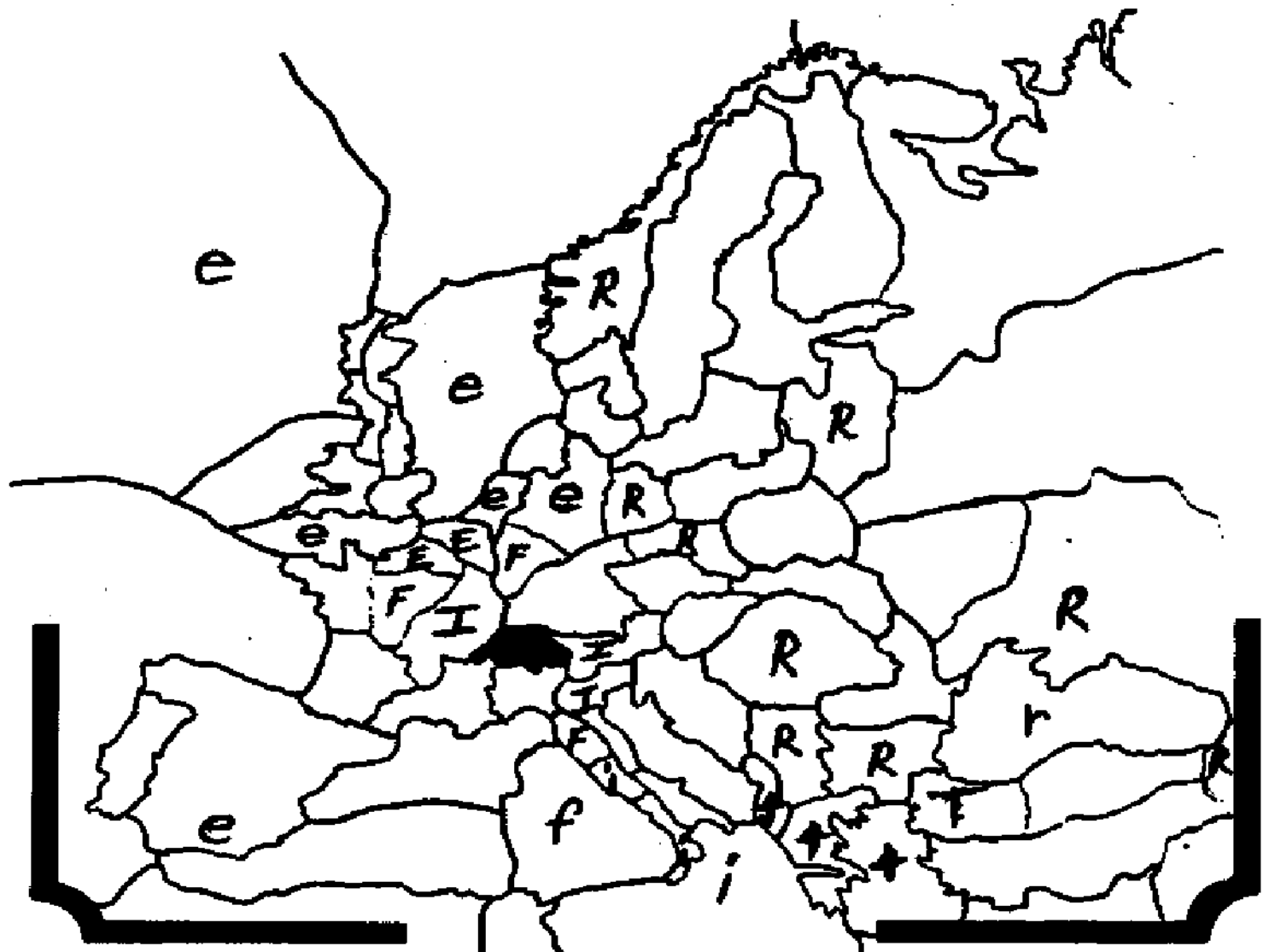
GM - World Woody just volunteered to be Cannon fodder at DipCon.

UPI Moscow The Russian Foreign Minister announced today the defeat of the French Government by superior Russian technology. A freeze dust was dropped from hot air balloons onto France which has the effect of forcing all their units to hold in place. The Foreign Minister stated that France was chosen as a target after a 17 second cabinet meeting. France has been complaining about the Russian use of the GTE carrier pigeons. Therefore his elimination from the game at Russian hands is most rewarding. Since using the dust on France taxed our industrial resources, we can not employ this tactic again till 1908.

RUS - ENG I don't know why you were so nervous, which made me nervous. I hope I was wrong and you didn't attack me. I will pull back if I was wrong.

GME - RS Another one center stab. Are you guys trying to set a record?

GM - Board That's it for me guys. It was a real pleasure (gag, choke) to GM this game for a whole game year. It was almost more than I could stand!



LETTER COLUMN

Quite a few responses this time, and most of them for Jake. If he wanted to start up a discussion then he succeeded. No letters of support here, but I expect maybe Bart and Michael Lee may have something to say next time. Comments on my editorial are first, followed by the lambaste on Jake.

First up, Russ Blau, 9/14/85.

Issue 15 certainly had some interesting statements in it. I especially enjoyed your response to my letter, beginning with "I will address the last question first." As I recall, that was a rhetorical device frequently used in press conferences by a former Republican President -- you remember, the one whose term in office ended so abruptly. Invariably, after giving an evasive answer to "the last question," he would proceed along to the next reporter without answering the first part of the previous question. You wouldn't stoop to such an obvious tactic, would you, Greg?

I guess there's no relation between the fact that you work for a State Representative and the fact that you advocate giving more power to State Governments.

While I certainly respect your knowledge in the field of politics, Greg, several of your comments last issue touched upon my field of expertise, which is the law. First, you referred to your school district which thinks that it can avoid busing by refusing to accept Federal aid money. Haven't you ever heard of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution? No State may deny any person the equal protection of the laws. Period. There's nothing in there about whether you accept Federal aid. Now, you may well disagree about whether busing is necessary to achieve equal protection of the laws, but one thing is certain -- if it is necessary, then busing will be required in all school districts, not just those that accept Federal money. Second, I wouldn't get too excited about that unratified constitutional amendment you mentioned. In Coleman v. Miller, 307 U.S. 433 (1939), the Supreme Court ruled that Congress may decide what is a reasonable time for ratifying amendments, and may reject any ratification not tendered within a reasonable time. In other words, even if Texas and 20 other states ratify the amendment, Congress gets to decide whether the ratifications are valid. And what do you think they'll decide? (Actually, in this case I do agree with you; it would be a good amendment. It just hasn't got a snowball's chance.)

Well, there are many other points I could comment on, but then this letter would be longer than the zine. I would welcome seeing some discussions of the basic principles of your conservative philosophy. So much of the conservative "thought" one hears and reads about these days consists entirely of saying what's so terrible about liberalism. Please tell me, what's so great about conservatism?

<<Uh, did I do that? Well let me answer the rest of your questions then. First, the "Texans" who "pestered" the US for admittance were almost all already US citizens. They moved to Texas and fought in the revolution for independence from Mexico, and then asked for admittance. We basically did the same thing in Hawaii and California; in fact, that's how the whole country got started when you come right down to it.

Comments on whether or not I believe in forced annexation: Let me make this perfectly clear (I couldn't resist that!), forced annexation would be useless. The situation in Israel with the

Palestinians is an excellent example. Will they ever give up? Would you? A country that we have saved from an aggressor nation, but has been devastated (we usually wait much too long before coming to the aid of an ally) is the prime candidate for statehood. The populace can be won over with a well designed public relations campaign, and we will probably have a friendly government in power already. Japan may even have been won over in time, but now it is too late.

There are several obvious problems with this plan, and there are also many reasons why it won't work. First, the people here in the US are very reluctant to share power, which admitting a new state would do. Do we really want two Japanese Senators? Secondly, the process would take a lot of understanding of and for the population of the candidate state. We are terrible at that, just about the worst in the world. We expect other cultures and languages to adopt our culture and language. One of the main reasons we have a trade deficit, especially with Japan, is our own reluctance to learn about foreign culture. The Japanese have learned our system better than we have learned theirs, and they can therefore exploit us.

Is 1945 modern times? Let me say this about that. Do you see what you have started here Blau? Where were you during the Runestone Poll debate when Linsey said that he was defending his position not for himself, but for all future pollsters? Anyway, yes 1945 is modern times, though not as modern as 1980.

I think all of these comments about my advocating forcible annexation stem from comments on Iran. So to clarify, I think we possibly should have occupied Iran following the hostage crises there, but no true annexation would have been possible for decades. It may have been possible to get the Shah, while he was in power, to ask for admittance to the Union, but I am sure ego would have intervened even if he had thought of it.

There is no relation between my current occupation and my stands on states' rights. There is a correlation between my job and the fact that I am questioning the necessity of the State Senate. Is a state bicameral legislature needed? Both Houses are determined by population, although Senators do have four year terms instead of two.

There are currently rules about busing included in the requirements for qualifying for Federal aid. I think; maybe we got that changes. In any case, I don't think any cases have been tried on the basis of the 14th Amendment yet. I would very much like to see one, though. My personal interpretation of that amendment follows the decision in Cooley, which is what the Congressional intent was when it passed anyway. Current interpretations have been that now the entire bill of rights applies to the states as well as Congress, and I don't think that was the intent. In fact, I think the Bill of Rights was a mistake. By enumerating the rights we definitely have, we put into question those that are not listed. The Constitution says that anything not listed as a Governmental duty is a right reserved to the states or to the people. That was all that is necessary.

As for the constitutional amendment regarding Congressional pay, my understanding of Coleman is that the Congress can set time limit when it proposes an amendment, not after one has already been proposed and ratified. I could be wrong on that, of course.

My Conservative philosophy: The Federal government is there to provide a common defense, and conduct foreign policy. State governments provide for education, welfare, and general

construction beneficial to the entire state. Local government provides police and fire protection, as well as the construction necessary to the area (roads mostly). Personal rights to privacy should be upheld as the most sacred right; as long as what I am doing does not infringe on your rights then I should be allowed to do it. Abortion is an excellent example as a social ill that should be solved, but not made illegal. Making something against the law doesn't solve it, and further I have to question the state placing the rights of an unborn fetus above the rights of the parents. Like Mark Lew, I worry about all the publicity child abuse is getting because we have now given a bureaucracy the right to take your children away without even the benefit of a hearing, let alone a judge and jury.

I vote Republican because they most closely follow my ideals and philosophies. I do not agree with most of the Religious Right positions because they interfere too much with the personal right to privacy. If the party continues to swing in this direction (and I don't think it will) then I have no doubt that I will be a Democrat by 1999.

I think that takes care of all of your questions, and in proper order(>>

Now Lin Morrisett, 9/18/85, in response to Bruce Linsey.

In your ((BRUX)) argument you maintain that the US could have forcibly taken control of the world by using "lots of bloody warfare" to overcome "little resistance." I support the first term in this contradiction.

If we had turned on the Soviets (and presumably the rest of the world?) as Patton suggested, we would have succeeded mainly in uniting the world against us, just as most of it united against Hitler. We would have suffered the added disadvantage of a great and vocal opposition at home. Those US soldiers who fought next to the Soviets against Germany would be reluctant to turn on old friends. Furthermore, the US citizenry, who needed the treachery of Japan to draw them into a just war, would have little stomach for perpetrating the even worse treachery of back stabbing an ally. Remember, Patton was well informed on the Soviets, the average citizen only knew them as helpful friends across the sea.

You speak of hunting down the PLO, a people who fight because (whether you accept it or not) they feel themselves to be a dispossessed nation. They woke up one morning in a new state, a fate you would have slated for most of the world.

Although there are advantages to a single world government, it could have only been brought about by treachery, wholesale disregard for the lives and rights of millions, and despotic suppression of the press. In short, by abandoning everything that makes our country great. Perhaps you would rather be "King in Hell," eh, Bruce?

<<Lin is living in Dallas now, and I met him when he interned in our office last spring. I would like to hear Lin's version of the Spanish American war, which the press and populace supported despite being mostly drummed up by Teddy Roosevelt.>>

Next, Pete Gaughan 9/12/85.

Mike Ehli was also in your Campaign Trail game; the weird Italian was Clint Hutchinson; <<I edited these out of the first part of his letter and they refer to my DIPCON report last time. As I remember it, Mr. Hutchinson was given an award by Pete for his survival in the game he put me out of. Thanks Pete.>>

Our conversations on Federalism have swayed me slightly; I'm looking forward to several states claiming more independence from the federal government in the near future. But I also look forward to those states realizing that many of their complaints are not as valid as they thought.

Each state will have to set a drinking age and a speed limit, and I dare say that several states will lower both again <<I think he means lower the speed limit and raise the drinking age>> after a few years of increased highway deaths. States who want to control their own welfare and education programs will find that, now, each county, city, or neighborhood will want to control its own affairs. There is a lower limit, somewhere, as to independent any group of people can be -- that's the basis of any government: cooperative coexistence.

Also, I look forward to living in a state where the poor and sick are given a chance to correct those problems. I suspect that Texas will not be such a state, and if Texas tries to run its affairs after the wishes of the majority it will have a violent minority on its hands. (This is not a reason for "welfare" but it might motivate some people.)

In all these discussions I'm more familiar with the theory of government and society (Machiavelli, Locke, Thoreau, et al.) than with the application. Some day I'll work out a major treatise for you to critique.

<<I look forward to it. Pete and I have discovered, as the years have gone by, that we are much closer than we ever thought. I once said that we were diametrically opposed, but I have found that is only true so far as the labels we placed on ourselves is concerned.

The violent minority (though I don't think it would ever get to that point) would emigrate to bordering states before revolting. We see that now with the illegal alien problem we have now with Mexico. I am convinced that if we ever actually tightened our borders enough to eliminate the problem we would either be in a de facto border war with Mexico, or they would be in open revolt. Thanks for the words of praise on my DIPCON write up, and I look forward to yours.>>

Another friend I made at DIPCON, Steve Langely 9/13/85.

Let's see, where to start. Daf wondered if you would expect Langely or Byrne bashing at a BRUXCON. <<Yes I would, and I would do my best to avoid it.>> I appreciate your doing all you can to stay out of the feud, but I feel you are lending it weight when you make such a big deal out of it. The feud is not really important enough (or should not be) to merit such energy. Ignore it without making a point of it. <Done! Thanks for the suggestion.>>

Politically I am somewhere to the left and right of both you and Jake, whatever that means. I'm not too impressed with the way this country was run under the Democrats. Because of that, despite a few doubts, I was a Reagan supporter. Once it became clear that Reagan's idea of a balanced budget was more deficit spending, I gave up on politics entirely. Still, your zine is for political discussion so you'd probably prefer to hear some opinions.

I'm for tax reform. I would like to see a flat tax on all income above a poverty level, with no deductions except for dependants.

I would include companies, corporations, et al as individuals subject to the same flat tax.

I feel the federal government should be responsible for the defense and, for scientific research. There may be a few other items of general good that they should more logically handle than the states, too.

I feel the post office should be a private enterprise, as should schools, medicine, construction, services, et al. State governments should supply the equivalent of defense through police and emergency services if there is no city or county level in locale. Most government should be at the township level decided by town meetings, and there should not be a lot of that.

I have many more embellishments on the above, but I'm sure you get the idea. Oh, one major point. Taxes go to the states directly and the states pay the central government a fixed amount per citizen per annum to pay for defense et al. I can only half agree with your position on busing. Busing kids out of good schools to bad schools makes no sense at all. The other side makes better sense though. The trap is being in a dead end school because your parents live in a ghetto, and so having little or no chance to learn the skills you need to dig yourself out of the ghetto. In such schools, as I picture, most students are marking time and learning from their peers how to live as losers. There are probably a small percentage who manage to teach themselves enough to break free, but there must be a lot more who would like to do so but are not able to accomplish it with the tools at hand. It would be of general benefit if these people were bussed from the poor schools to the better schools. How to decide who should go on the bus? Ask for volunteers. That would give you the best odds of getting people who want to learn.

Who should pay for it? They can't until years later, when they can turn the education into jobs and careers. Then their taxes will go toward paying for other students to be bussed into school.

Did you really support the annexation of the rest of the world as a solution to the world's problems? I'm appalled. How many ways does the concept fail? First, how would you have reacted to the announcement, at the end of WWII when Russia dropped the bomb on Germany (I'm rewriting history a bit here), that Russia, through the might of having the bomb was combining the world under one government? That you and your children would learn Russian as your first language? And don't try to tell me that we would give the world Democracy and freedom. What kind of freedom do you give someone by threatening them with Atomic destruction if they don't do it your way?

Of course we didn't have the bombs to back up the bombast in 1945, and by the time we had built up such an arsenal, it was too late. But morally, even if it was not too late, it is wrong to dictate to people how to live. Having the power of life and death does not automatically give one the wisdom of a God, only the power. The concept of government through coercion is only successful with the revolution, or so all history tends to show.

The idea of exporting Americans fails in that most Americans would balk at being exported. In the past, we expanded into areas naturally. Once we ran up against some natural barriers, the Pacific Ocean, the great Southern desert, we slowed down. In those areas where we were not first, Canada, the people chose a different path. We sent a lot of your young Americans to Canada

during the Vietnam crisis. I didn't notice that they Americanized Canada all that much.

A world government is no more necessary than a strong central government. Or are you in favor of a strong central government? I got the impression you felt that Washington should keep its nose and money out of the states. Is it somehow different if the state's name is Yugoslavia or Russia?

We could use more cultural and informational exchange with the rest of the world. Luckily, through increased communications technology, that is evolving naturally, despite the governments of the world acting to keep most of us in ignorance about each other. We are close to discovering whether intelligence is truly a survival trait. So far it looks black.

<<Now is the worst of all times to give up on politics! We are seeing the most dynamic change in the last 50 years, and the individual can have more say now than ever before. The religious right is a minority in this country, yet look at the impact they have had so far. Any group that takes the position of being able to swing into either party with ease will get almost anything it wants as the two parties fight for their votes. Imagine how many of the Black issues would be addressed tomorrow if they were thought to be independent instead of solidly Democrat. Look how much impact women are having, because they can easily vote for any candidate! Changes are occurring, and the 1988 election will be the best this nation has seen!

Most of your comments are answered in my response to Russ, but I did want to make one comment here. Schools should be improved by having the state government spend more money on them, rather than just taking a few students out to send them to a better school. Our current conditions are a result of the method for financing education, which is mostly property taxes. In depressed areas the property is worth very little, so the tax revenue is low. Consequently the schools suffer, and the situation becomes a cycle. I think property taxes are ridiculous and should be abolished. Taxing income or sales or corporations makes much more sense. Any of those are much easier to keep track of, and they also involve money changing hands, so one party can simply deduct some to pass on to the government. If a person has nothing but a plot of land which he lives on and is able to grow enough food to feed himself, how can he afford (and why should he be forced) to pay taxes? When we fix the method of finance, many of our educational problems will be corrected. Thanks for the letter, Steve, and welcome to PF.>>

Here is mark lew, who I think had a few comments of his own in benzene on the value of property taxes. He didn't exactly agree with me. mark is responding to Bart Aikens. 9/20/85

death penalty is an emotional issue -- even for such a hard-hearted one as myself. one irrational fear i harbor is that of being falsely accused of something and being ostracized or worse for it. that's why i can't help sympathizing with the murderers. i think that discussions about whose "fault" things are and who is traditionally more compassionate are irrelevant issues which serve only to cloud the death penalty issue. i think that justice and deterrence are less compelling reasons to kill murderers than economics. when you say that people get offended and wonder if the next step is to kill off old people or others without whom some formulated model of society would score higher. but the difference between such fascist pruning of the populace and killing certain criminals is important; it is that any person (provided he isn't paranoid like i am) can rest assured that he can avoid being killed if he plays by "the rules.

tell me what is unstable about the governments of botswana, mozambique, and zambia. i can't remember any coups in any of those nations. now it appears that even mugabe has more popular support than botha. why do you think south africa will come under soviet control? alas, i too see no alternative to a civil war there, but it's not impossible for the united states to align itself with the faction which will prevail.

why do you say the soviet union is our only enemy? what is it that makes a nation "enemy?" it seems to me that we disagree with other nations to varying degrees ranging from almost nothing (canada) to almost everything (ussr), with everyone else somewhere in between. is there some disagreement threshold beyond which a nation is an enemy? or is it something else?

i don't think free enterprise is inexorable. i think it's rival system is not communism, but mercantilist capitalism. that's just another manifestation of the monopoly question, i suppose.

<<I freely admit that I know very little about Africa, and I probably misunderstand what I do know. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to get a friendly faction in charge of South Africa because we are still too non-interventionist as a nation. It would take a lot of money and weapons, and possibly even troops to counter the violent factions that are bound to take control. Why will it end up under Soviet domination? Because the violent groups are getting their arms from the USSR. Anybody know more about this care to comment?>>

Most of the rest of my letters are in response to Jake's editorial. First up is Scott Hansen. 9/18/85

There were a couple of interesting things in FF #15. The first was your comments on tax reform -- with which I agree with you 100%. That may sound strange -- since i am from a high tax state -- but i don't want to encourage the state of Minnesota to spend even more because they know state taxes are deductible.

But of course no one here is getting very excited about tax reform -- about half the taxpayers here would lose money. And those who would lose are influential enough to be able to block it. The average person is so baffled by the current system he probably doesn't understand the benefits of reform. Of course the whole economy will be more efficient as a result, too.

Having missed the previous issues, I'm not at all sure what kind of stuff Jake is responding to. But he did make a mistake in fact when said the Republicans "have renounced a long standing pledge that Americans would not be the first to employ nuclear weapons." The US has never had such a policy of no first use. Nuclear strategy has never really been a political issue between the parties (the freeze option is a question of deployment, not the use of nuclear weapons). The one President to use nuclear weapons was a Democrat, and it was he in 1946 who threatened to destroy 25 Soviet cities if the Soviet troops moved into western Europe. (At the time the US had only one bomb left over from WWII!) First use of nuclear weapons has been the central point of NATO strategy since it was formed. It was Kennedy who backed off massive retaliation to a strategy more flexible, and Carter who first explored limited nuclear war options. The Reagan Administration hasn't really made any changes -- just shifting emphasis.

well, no time for more. I'll bet we pretty much agree on a limited role for the Federal government in domestic problems. So it's only logical that if they cannot be efficient solving

domestic issues, they are no more effective in foreign affairs right?

<<Foreign affairs are not a question of efficiency, but of unity. I think your right of the no first use pledge, but I couldn't document it. If we pass Steve Langley's flat tax, how many accountants and lawyers will suddenly be unemployed, and how will that affect the economy?>>

Here is Ron Spitzer, 9/20/85.

I, like Greg, am a member of the Republican party and a conservative. Let me give you a little background into the recent history of prior Democratic and Republican administrations. Democratic Presidents have put the US in war (militarily active) situations on every one of their administrations since FDR. Republicans have taken over, then been asked to salvage what's left from a shattered and confused foreign policy. (Recently Iran, Lebanon, South Africa, and Nicaragua, all remnants of the Carter administrations meddling and incompetent foreign policy.) Reagan has tried (unsuccessfully, I might add) to solve the problems left to him by recent past Presidents. Reagan's foreign policy has been wishy washy and ineffective since Al Haig left State.

Reagan's only foreign policy (ie. dealing with aggression) success has been his handling of Moscow. you must deal firmly with Russian Imperialistic Expansionism. Do not be misled by Russians in communist clothing; the Russians have not changed their viewpoints on foreign policy in hundreds of years. They view the west with suspicion, the east with fear, the south with a knife and fork, and the rest of the world as pawns in a game of Chess toward their goal of Russian (not communist) expansion and world domination. They do not look at the world like you and I do, believe it or not I am closer to a true Socialist's viewpoint than Socialists are to Russian communism. The Russians honestly believe it is them against the world. They have no allies, just clients and countries they occupy or control. Name me one or two countries in the Russian Communist block or in association with Moscow that does not have a Russian military presence. I, by the way, can name a dozen or so Western countries without American military presence: Brazil, Mexico, Sweden, Israel, Singapore, Australia, Venezuela, France, Etc. Of the countries that do have American troops present, only Germany can be included in "occupied friendly" category.

Getting back to Republican/Conservatives. True conservatives want a negative income tax system, which means to take from the richer and give to the poor. Sure, we want to cut Social Spending, legal aid spending, postal spending, and any other spending we can get our hands on. Why not? People should pay for the services they use. In a true conservative society there would be fewer poor people as a result of a negative income tax system; they would be given money directly from the government to spend as they see fit to support themselves and their families. Do not come back to me with the racist liberal line about the poor (meaning blacks and hispanics) needing government to administer the money for them, because they are naive and would spend the money foolishly. Why are they any less naive than the rest of society that buys pet rocks, or chicken nuggets from a hamburger joint.

Please do not use the names of Jay, Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Madison, and Hamilton in vain. They would be appalled at the way this country has slid towards government before and to the people, rather than a government "of and by the people." Jake, as an American and a patriotic one I am sure, I respect your

right to disagree with me within the framework Franklin, Jefferson, Adams, Jay, Madison, and Hamilton provided for us. If that means two parties running candidates for President so be it. However, you are fooling yourself if you believe that Republicans and Democrats are two parties and their members have no vast differences within each party. The Republicans have the Semi-fascists, Semi-neo-fascists religious right, Eastern establishment right wingers, middle of the roaders (people who believe in whatever gets them votes), Neo-liberals, Liberals, Neo-conservatives, Conservatives, Liberterreans, and True Constitutional Conservatives (which I am a member of) plus many other fringe groups. The Democrats are equally divided. And let me tell you that my fellow conservatives despise the Democrats and half the Republicans with the same fervor, but respect their right to peacefully dissent.

The defense budget: One of the truly governmental responsibilities. We don't need the Bradley I.F.V., M-1 Tank, B-1 Bomber, F-15 Fighter or any other major new weapon system if we want war with the Russians tomorrow. But alas, I don't want war with the Russians, or anyone else. So that means perception is everything. If we do not put on a pretense of building to prevent war and defend our country, we will have the thing liberals say they don't want, which is war. Then they will send their kids to Canada and complain about the fact that we got into another war, while American boys (less well off) die as a result of the liberals faulty logic and lack of being able to learn from the mistakes of the past.

About Jake's statement that Republicans renounced a long standing pledge not to use nukes first. You are right! However, it was a hollow pledge. We would, and should, use every resource available to us, including nuclear weapons. Not to protect McDonald's, but the Americans standing in line buying their food; not to protect the Yankees (maybe the Angels), but their (misguided) fans; not to protect "Miami Vice," but to protect Miami. The Russians can state they will not use nuclear weapons first, because they don't need to use them to take over Europe and Japan by force. Unfortunately we need them to save Europe and Japan, because we gave up our conventional military dominance 25 years ago. What would Jake have us do, abandon freedom and live under Soviet dictatorship? The Russians have known America would do this for the last 20 years. All the Republicans did was let the people of America know what has been a foreign policy fact for 20 years.

Back to Jake's central point: know thy enemy. I agree with his second point, but in a different way. We (Americans) are our own worst enemy. We get in our own way. We constantly fight among ourselves as to who is occupying the most moral ground over each issue, South Africa or School prayer, Abortion or ERA. What we fail to realize is morality is something man cannot attain on any permanent basis. We are destined to make immoral decisions. Why? Greed, envy, lust, the need to dominate. "Everybody wants to rule the world." (Thanks, Tears for Fears.) The song's lyric is right, deep down we have all wanted to rule the world. Some of us are less bashful of letting others know about that than others. Does that make us more or less moral? I believe the only moral position is one that realizes that there is no moral position. Only a temporary position lacking morality. When Americans have realized this, then we will be able to speak with one voice. Until then disunity will reign and you and I will be allowed to speak freely about our beliefs with our feeling immoral or oppressed.

<<Not only do I not realize your last statement, I don't understand it. We will never speak with one voice, which is both

a weakness and a strength. We allow dissidents, even radical revolutionaries, to operate within the system and that is a weakness. Obviously, it is necessary, because that freedom of expression is also our greatest strength. I tend to agree pretty closely with James Wall, who is coming up next. I still think you're wrong about the no first use pledge. We instead have always had the opposite position since Truman: that we wouldn't hesitate to use nuclear weapons if Soviet actions warrant it.>>

Finally, here is James Wall, also in response to Jake, 9/18/85.

I read Jake's reply to Greg's comments with great interest. A cogent display of political logic. It's too bad he's looking through a one way mirror though.

This first point of disagreement has to do with his interpretation of the 1st amendment right to freedom of the press. I will as vehemently defend the right of a free and honest press as Jake will. The duty of the press is to accurately report what is considered news in any given day. What the Constitution does not provide for is what is truly under attack when Jake speaks out against news blackouts during Grenada: the right of our government to prevent instant news service systems from further endangering our servicemen (including my 18 year old brother) when they are ordered to perform in areas where their lives may be at risk. Nothing is harmed if the government forbids the media information and access for the purpose of protecting our men in the army from those who value stories more than American lives. It gives them time to put together an accurate and factual newscast/article and saves the public from the mindless speculation and instant analysis of our news media. I guess I don't feel sensationalistic media coverage, 5 minutes after an event has taken place, is worth risking the life of my brother. If Jake would view the series of events from a more subjective view he would realize that the Reagan administration was not censoring the press as does the Ortega regime in Nicaragua, he acted to protect lives that were at stake, both student and soldier, and I applaud him for considering lives before idealistic interpretations of the constitution.

A second point of disagreement comes over the value of the Legal Services Corporation. I guess I just don't see the logic in providing people with legal counsel in instances where the government is being sued. Why should the public pay a lawyer to represent someone who is attempting to sue the government for millions of taxpayer dollars? Furthermore, our courts are amazingly backlogged with civil suits filed for people who do not know what's going on. The LSC had become a tool of liberal activists to change society via litigation. There is no Constitutional right to be provided with counsel adequate to sue another. This type of activity should be handled and paid for by money from the private sector. Uncle Sam cannot afford to anymore.

As a side light, Ed Meese. If Jake wants a government of the rich, then go ahead and deny middle class Meese of the right to counsel when he's nominated for public office. Just remember that there are conservative organizations that can zero in on liberal civil servants as well. I would hate to deny people a place in any Presidential administration due to the fact they couldn't afford to defend themselves from McCarthyist accusations (the word need not always refer to right wing anti-communists, nor need it imply associations with communism).

It was a very emotional ending Jake used, but, quite frankly, he isn't seeing the forest through the trees. Most of the budget

<<Thanks, James. As I said before, I pretty much agree. So much so that I am going to skip any answer of my own. There is plenty enough to digest here as it is. Thanks to everyone for writing; any responses out there?>>

What an issue! I had no idea this was going to end up at 20 pages! I am not going to include High Plains Gonzo for a couple of reasons. First, I can't afford the postage. Second, I lost the election in Texas, and if you think I'm going to embarrass myself by printing it, you're wrong. Finally, Jake mentioned that he has a few corrections to make anyway. So look for the return of Gonzo and Butter Battles next time. That's NEXT MONTH! That's enough of these issues every two weeks! Have a cartoon, or a map or something. And wish Polly and I a happy 5th anniversary. Thank you.

