

ISSUE 19

December 18, 1985

(512) 343-8202

WELCOME TO THE CHRISTMAS EDITION

AND

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C      H  H  R  R  I  S      T  MM MM  A  A  S      !
C      HHHHH  RRRRR  I      S      T  M M M  AAAAA  S      !
C      H  H  P  R  I      S      T  M  M  A  A      S
CCCCC  H  H  R  R  IIIII  SSSSS  T  M  M  A  A  SSSSS  O
  
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This isn't going to be a large issue, but we do have the PP results and both Gunboat games, as well as Butter Battles. This weekend I am going to head to Houston for a family gathering, and spend the week down there relaxing. I ended up taking all of optional finals in an effort to raise my grades some. The Resources class stayed a C, but I finished with two A's and a B in my other classes, so the finals were worth it. I also finally got the paper I was supposed to have turned in last spring submitted. If you ever have the chance to take an incomplete and finish the class later don't do it. somehow it falls to the bottom of your priority list; I turned that paper in with 15 minutes to spare, and caught the professor in the elevator. Had I missed him it would have been an F!

One quick note on Gonzo Football. I made the playoffs by beating Kevin Tighe's Redwood Buds, and then beat the Titusville Tempests for the third time this season to make it into the GONZO BOWL!!!! Wish me luck. That's all the BS you get this month. We do have some letters, though, so you can get your BS there. On to the games.

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS NOTES

I said earlier that a 0 on the Dow Jones was a 0 and not a 10. I have changed my mind, since at this rate we won't get into all the issues, and the December 4 DJIA was 1494.40. So, the new number is 63. DUE NEXT TURN: (FF only!) Media bids and Spotlight issues in Rocky Mountains; maintain whatever organizations that you have already set up; seven days travel. Our new issue is Energy Mobilization. Possible issues: Fuel Assistance on a 3, Railroad Deregulation on a 5, Indian Nuclear Fuel on a 8, and (Finally!) Nuclear Waste on a 0.

TIME FACTOR NOW STANDS AT: 63 (FF) and (HPG)
 NEXT DATE TO CHECK THE DJIA: January 3, 1985
 DEADLINE: (FF) January 17, 1985 and (HPG) January 10, 1985

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONALS

WILCOX STUNS HALVERSTADT; LARZELERE FAILS TO GET ANY DELEGATES

CANDIDATE	JIM	PETE	JAKE	MARK	STEPHEN
ISSUES:					
Chrysler	*	*	-199	+324	+324
Housing	*	*	+367	-246	+367
Draft II	*	*	-108	-108	+324
Energy	?	?	-	?	+
SPOTLIGHT ISSUE ----	----	----	Chrysler	Housing	Draft II
VISITS: days/votes					
Denver	*	*	1.8/ 73	*	1.9/ 77
Phoenix	*	*	1.8/ 62	*	2 / 68
Salt Lake	*	*	1 / 30	*	1.8/ 54
Tucson	*	*	1 / 24	*	.9/ 22
Albuquerque	*	*		*	.5/ 41
Las Vegas	*	*		*	.9/ 38
Colorado Spgs	*	*		*	.5/ 29
ORGANIZATION:					
weeks/votes	*	*	5/271	-0-	2/154
MOMENTUM BONUS:					130
MEDIA:					
Votes	*	*	130	-0-	-0-
number/cost			1/ 43		
TOTAL VOTES:	*	*	1044	450	1171
PERCENTAGE:	*	*	39.17	16.89	43.94
DELEGATES:	*	*	79	-0-	89
CPP GAINED:	*	*	17	-0-	33
BALANCE	<72>	<12>	495	410	647
This week					
SPENT	-0-	-0-	<117>	<66>	<34>
GAINED	-0-	-0-	17	-0-	33
BALANCE	<72>	<12>	395	344	646
Available Funds	-0-	-0-	485	434	736
TRAVEL:					
DAY 1	*	*	Detroit	G.Rapids	Denver
DAY 2	*	*	"	"	Phoenix
DAY 3	*	*	"	Flint	"
DAY 4	*	*	G.Rapids	Lansing	Alb/CoSp
DAY 5	*	*	Flint	Kalamazoo	Louisvll
DAY 6	*	*	SaltLake	An Arbor	Lou/Lex
DAY 7	*	*	Tucson	Saginaw	Seattle
ORGANIZATIONS:					
Michigan	N	N	4	3	N
Maryland	N	N	4	3	N
Kentucky	N	N	3	N	1
Pacific States	N	N	2	1	N
California	N	N	1	1	N
New Jersey	N	N	1	1	N
Ohio	N	N	1	1	N
DECLARED FOR:					
Michigan	N	N	Y	Y	N
Maryland	N	N	Y	Y	N
Kentucky	N	N	Y	Y	Y
California	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Ohio	N	N	Y	Y	Y
New Jersey	N	N	Y	Y	Y
TOTAL DELEGATES: 284		313	587	629	620

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONALS

YOUNG WINS; HARE DISTANT SECOND

CANDIDATE	DAVE	TY	JAMES	DAN
ISSUES:				
Nuke	*	+136	-188	-188
Dom Spend	*	+ 68	-407	+ 68
Alaska	*	+ 68	+ 68	-479
Energy	?	+	+	+
SPOTLIGHT ISSUE		Nuke	Dom Spend	Alaska
VISITS: days/votes				
Denver	*	4.8/106	*	2 / 44
Phoenix	*	2.9/ 79	*	1.9/ 51
Salt Lake	*	1.9/ 57	*	.9/ 27
Tucson	*	.95/ 31	*	.45/ 15
Albuquerque	*	.45/41	*	
Las Vegas	*	.45/ 38	*	
Colorado Springs	*	.45/ 29	*	
ORGANIZATION:				
weeks/votes	*	3/188		4/209
MOMENTUM BONUS:				130
MEDIA:				
votes	*	-0-	-0-	-0-
Number/cost	*	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL VOTES:	*	841	663	1141
PERCENTAGE:	*	31.80	25.06	43.14
DELEGATES:	*	28	22	129
CFP GAINED:	*	12	9	29
BALANCE	3	157	8	324
This Week				
SPENT	-0-	<25>	<16>	<48>
GAINED	-0-	12	9	29
BALANCE	3	157	1	305
Available Funds	*	247	91	395
TRAVEL:				
DAY 1	*	DENVER	DETROIT	PHOENIX
DAY 2	*	"	"	DENVER
DAY 3	*	"	"	"
DAY 4	*	SALT LAKE	"	DETROIT
DAY 5	*	PHOENIX	"	"
DAY 6	*	"	G. RAPIDS	"
DAY 7	*	TUCS/ALB	FLINT	"
ORGANIZATIONS:				
Michigan	N	N	5 (-1)	2
Kentucky	N	N	N	2
Pacific	N	N	N	1
California	N	N	2 (-3)	1
DECLARED FOR:				
Michigan	N	N	Y	Y
Maryland	N	N	N	Y
Kentucky	N	Y	Y	Y
California	N	Y	Y	Y
Ohio	N	Y	Y	Y
New Jersey	N	Y	Y	Y
TOTAL DELEGATES:	197	377	335	456

WILCOX WINNING Halverstadt Hurting

The Presidential Campaign of Colorado Governor Jake Halverstadt was dealt a severe blow today as he failed to win his home territory in the Rocky Mountains. It was clear the Halverstadt wanted to win the region, especially after he purchased some last minute television ads. Campaign operatives were worried earlier in the week that the momentum Wilcox had built up would carry him to victory, and as it turns out they were right. The exit polls show Wilcox won the election mostly because of his momentum. We have no comments from the Governor who is facing tough contests in Michigan and Maryland this week, and is monetarily even farther behind both his rivals.

The Wilcox campaign was ecstatic, and claimed that they expected the win all along. "The citizens of the Rockies understand the need for fiscally conservative stands.", an aide said at a victory celebration, "Governor Halverstadt hasn't done a good enough job with the state economy to warrant getting the Presidency and responsibility for the national budget." Political analysts are now questioning the wisdom of Wilcox skipping next weeks elections entirely. The gap may be too great for his momentum to carry him over, and big wins in both primaries for Larzelere may be all the Maryland Senator needs to carry him to the nomination. Wilcox pulled to within 9 delegates of the Democratic front runner.

Though slightly disappointed that they failed to get any delegates at all, the Larzelere campaign remains confident. The three term Senator is expected to handily win his home state of Maryland, but the real contest next week is in the delegate rich state of Michigan. Larzelere spent this week travelling through most of Michigan, and is currently favored there.

YOUNG STILL ON A ROLL, WALL STILL ALIVE

The Presidential campaign of California Senator Dan Young took a large step toward locking up the Republican nomination today in the Rocky Mountain Regional Caucuses. Although the former California Senator Ty Hare had travelled the area extensively, and he is also currently living in Colorado, he was unable to generate much interest and finished 11 points behind. Talk about a Young/Hare ticket is still circulating, and the candidates met for a short time in Denver. The Hare campaign has denied the rumor, but not as strenuously as would be expected of a viable Presidential candidate.

The Wall campaign remained alive by pulling in just 9 CFP in donations. The Wisconsin Senator had to borrow again this week, and is expected borrow heavily for the Michigan primary. He is already travelling the state, having spent almost 6 days in Detroit. Wall claims to be in the lead in Michigan according to his private pollsters, but independent polls show the two candidates as neck and neck. Hare will not be campaigning in either state next week, and Young is unopposed in the Maryland primary.

If the Republicans are planning a cohesive convention, they haven't been acting like a ticket thus far. The momentum carried over from the primaries to the General Election can be significant, if planned properly. Yet neither candidate has been buying media; they both keep visiting the same cities; neither candidate has organized New Jersey or Ohio. These can be very important states in terms of electoral votes. The General election promises to be close, regardless of who the Democrats choose for their ticket.

GEORGE WILL

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

ENGLAND	Home, Nwy, Bel, Swe, stp-----	6 --
FRANCE	HOME, Spa, Por -----	5 +1
GERMANY	Ber, Kie, Hol, Den -----	4 --
ITALY	rom, Bar -----	0 -2*
RUSSIA	HOME, Rum, Vie, Bud, Mun -----	R --*
TURKEY	Home, ITALY, Rul, Ser, Gre, Tri, Tun ---	11 +1

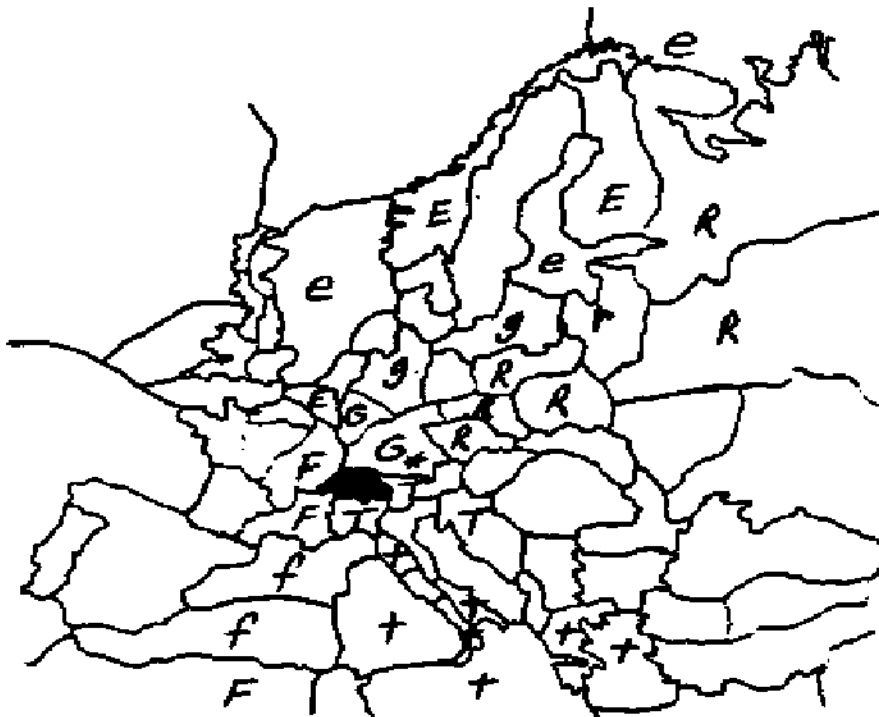
SPRING 1907

ENGLAND A BEL H, F Nwg-BAR, F Ska-NTH, A FIN-Stp (A NWY, F BOT S)
FRANCE Build A PAR; A Par-BUR (A MAR S), F Spa-WES (F LYO S), A NAP-Tun
GERMANY Ret. A Mun-RUH; A Ber-MUN (A RUH S), F Hol-KIE, F Den-BAL
RUSSIA Build A WAR; A Gal-BOH, A STP S F Liv (A MOS, F LIV S), A PRU-Kie (IMP) (A SIL S(IMP), A Mun S (ANN)), A WAR-PRU
TURKEY Declines build; F Rom-TUS (A PIE S (A TYO S)), A Tun-APU (F ION C), F AEG MS F GRE, A TRI S Rus A Gal-Vie (NSO), F TYR-Tun, F NAP-Tyr

PROPOSALS

R/T/F and E/F/R/T both failed on a vote of 2 yes, 2 no, and 1 NVR. Proposed for next time: R/T, E/R/T, and E/F/R/T. Please vote by next deadline. For those of you who may not be aware of my stand-by policy, On two occasions now I have asked uninterested third parties to submit orders for an NMRing country. I don't bother to do this for countries of two centers or less and I don't announce when it happens. I thought I explained this before, but two players swear I didn't, so I thought I had better say it now.

DEADLINE FOR FALL 1907 IS January 20, 1985



HODDING CARTER, III

FALL 1903

AUSTRIA A Alb-GRE, A TRI-Ven (A TYO S), A SER S Rus A Rum-Bul
ENGLAND F Eng-MID, A BRE S Fre A Par, F NTH S Rus F Swe-Den (NSO)
(F NWG S)
FRANCE F MAR-Spa, A PAP S Eng A Bre-Pic (NSO) (A GAS S)
GERMANY F ROL - Nth (F DEN S), A PIC-Par (A BUR S (A MUN, A BEL
S))
ITALY F WES-Spa, F LYO-Mar, A PIE-Tyo (A VEN S)
RUSSIA F Sev-ARM, A Mos-UKR, F Con-Bla (Ret. APG, OTB), F
NWY-Nth, A FIN-Nwy (F SWE S), A Rum-BUL
TURKEY F Bul-Bla (ANN), F Ion-NAP, A Ank-CON (A SMY S)

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

AUSTRIA	Home, Ser, Gre	5	--
ENGLAND	Home, Bre	4	--
FRANCE	Par, Mar, Spa, Por	4	--
GERMANY	Home, Hol, Den, Bel	6	--
ITALY	Rom, Ven, Tun, nap	3	-1
RUSSIA	Home, Rum, Swe, Nwy, BUL	8	+1*
TURKEY	Home, NAP, bul	4	--*

SPRING 1904

AUSTRIA Build A VIE; A Vie-ROH, A Tri-VEN (A TYO S), A GRE-Apu
(IMP), A SER S A Gre (OTM)

ENGLAND F MID-Spa (SC), A BRE S Pre A Par, F NTH S Rus F Swe-Den
(NSO) (F NWG S)

FRANCE F MAR-Spa (SC), A PAR S Eng A Bre-Pic (NSO) (A GAS S)

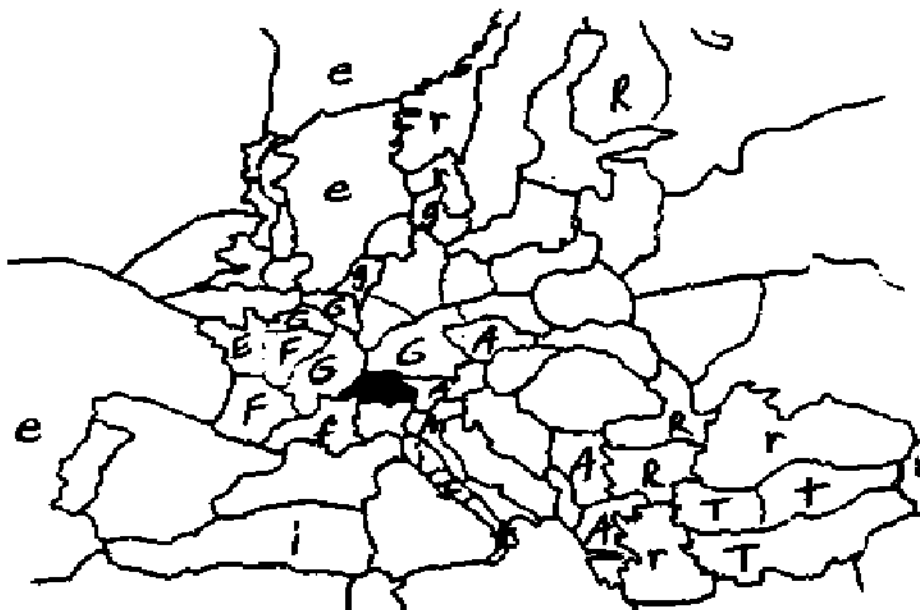
GERMANY F HOL & F DEN SRus F Nwy-NTH (NSO), A BUR-Par, A MUN-Bur,
A PIC S A Bur-Mun (NSO) (A BEL S)

ITALY Remove A Pie; A Ven-ROM, F WES-Tyr, F Lyo-TUS

RUSSIA Retreat F Con-AEG; Build F SEV; F Sev-BJA (F ARM S), A
Ukr-RUM, F Swe-SKA (F NWY S (A FIN S)) F Den S F Ska-Nth
(NSU), A BUL-Con (F AEG S)

TURKEY Build Fleet ANK; F ANK H, A CON H (A SMY S), F NAP-Tyr

DEADLINE FOR FALL 1904 IS JANUARY 20, 1985



LETTER COLUMN

From Mark Lew (about November 15)

Do I understand Ron Spitzer correctly? It sounds like he says anyone who claims he doesn't want to rule the world is a liar. I don't want to rule the world.

Specifying where your tax money goes on your return is worse than unworkable. Not even a "nice thought"...

Kennedy in '88? Not a chance. I don't think Elizabeth Dole is Presidential material. I'd put Kemp's odds higher and Cuomo's lower. I expect Cuomo to stay quiet and jump into the race late if he sees an opening. DE Governor DuPont (only distantly related to family/corporate leadership) is a moderate Republican who seems to have his eye on the office. Caddell will no doubt be helping one of the non-Hart "neo-democrats" -- Biden, Babbitt, Gephardt, Bradley.....

The Mongols conquered Russia for a few centuries -- don't know if you'd call that an invasion since they started in central Asia.

No sense in defaulting unless we sell our T-bills for cash right? So who has two trillion in cash? Japan?

((I think that Ron was talking about national attitudes, not necessarily personal feelings. Very few people actually want to rule the world, yet several nations have already made the attempt. Who do you think can beat Kennedy? Hart may make another try for the nomination, but he and Teddy are pretty much fighting for the same votes, and Kennedy should get the majority of the votes that went to Mondale. I don't think Cuomo is going to see any openings. That may have been an option when the conventions actually picked candidates, but modern campaigns are started two (or four, or six) years beforehand, and the general populace would not stand for a convention picked candidate who hadn't run in the race. E. Dole doesn't have any chance at the Presidency, but is a possibility for VP, especially if Kemp gets the nomination. What do we sell our T-bills for? Our debt is already financed by foreign cash, it is just a question of which nation. Unfortunately most of the cash has come from Allies, so defaulting would be a bad political move. Actually, defaulting would be a bad move regardless, but another of my "nice thoughts."))

David Anderson (about December 1)

This is a true story. You talk about uncontrollable expenses for social programs. A friend of mine, who works in the same volunteer job that I do, is on the welfare system here. She receives \$180 a month for rent. She gets a grand total of \$19 every two weeks which goes for laundry, transportation (buses), phone, stamps, etc. She gets \$77 food stamps for the WHOLE MONTH! Fortunately, she has the job to help keep and make all the ends meet. so always remember when you want to cut social programs it will affect another human being somewhere, somehow. She would like a job, but when the application says "Do you have a handicap" she has to answer yes. She has a very mild palsy. Give her a job and she'll pay taxes and whatever else. She's not proud to be on general assistance, but, hell, Greg, if it wasn't for that she might not exist!!! Give her a chance and she'll prove her worth!

So instead of cutting social programs I would suggest a freeze on social programs and instead let's take a good 'ole slice out of my favorite spot as a good liberal always does -- the military!

First let's get rid of those incompetents who bought the \$80 screwdrivers and such as that. Then we can collect on some of the real debt-ridden nations like Brazil. Let's have the Soviets pay us for the weapons we gave them in WWII. We can also disarm a lot of those old fuddy duddy warheads in Germany. We have enough warheads here in the U.S. to do the job and I'm sure that the French and English would use their missiles if and when it becomes necessary. If I were anywhere in the world at the time a nuclear war ever started, I'd like to be in Switzerland.

About the Presidential race, I would vote for the democratic ticket of Cuomo and Hart. I have liked Cuomo ever since the Convention and Hart, well, I voted for him and I would do it again. Or that other guy from N.Y., but I can't remember his name.

((I hope the other guy from New York gets the nomination, whatever his name is. I mean, if he has impressed his supporters so much that they can't remember his name....

I agree that the situation your friend is in is difficult, and I also agree that the current system isn't answering the problem. According to William Simon, when he wrote A Time for Truth, if the government just gave away every penny it spent on assistance, your friend would be making \$30,000 a year. There in lies the problem. If you think there is waste in the Defense department, they are pikers compared to Health and Human Services! I don't want the social programs cut, I want them eliminated from the Federal budget and handed over to the states. That's a big difference. Right now the states are responsible for a portion of the assistance programs, but the federal bureaucracy eats up most of the money, and there are a lot of reasons for that. First, the Fed rewards incompetence. If you save money, your budget is cut. If you waste money and over spend your budget you get more money. Since Washington spell power M-O-N-E-Y, you can see where the true incentives are. Second, if HHS actually gets everyone a job and no one is on assistance, they are no longer necessary. Why work to eliminate your own job?

At the local level the programs can be more carefully watched and the budget won't get out of hand as easily. Individual voters have a lot more say in local politics than they do national, and the people are thereby more powerful. I think the place of the federal government is to provide for a common defense, and the state governments should take care of the welfare of its citizens.

A freeze on social programs is impossible; that's what I mean by 'uncontrollable.' They can freeze the level of benefits to individuals, but not the overall budget. If 10,000 new applicants all qualify, then they all get the benefits and the budget goes up accordingly. You aren't suggesting we freeze the rolls and tell newcomers tough, are you?

I'll take Bush/Kemp against Cuomo/Hart anytime.))

Alan Stewart (December 3)

I'm glad that Steve Langley wrote in the last issue to criticize my statement about DipCon --it originally appeared in garbled form, and I forgot to correct the error when it was first printed. What I meant to say was "If there were such people at DipCon one might ask why." "Such people" referred to people who enjoy bashing other people, as part of their feuding enjoyment, at Dip gatherings. As Steve pointed out, the statement as it first appeared didn't make much sense.

I don't follow Steve's reference to overpopulation being the cause of the U.S.'s ills, but I'd be interested to hear the argument developed further.

Russ Blau is right: Bill Bradley deserves to be in there somewhere. I'm going to take all the comments into account and recast my table of odds in a few weeks. All of the contenders James Wall mentioned, excluding Joe Biden but including Jesse Jackson, have less than one in one hundred chance of making it and consequently are bumped together in the field. A smiling, modern, moderate, Southerner like Dale Bumpers is doomed from the beginning -- he brings back chilling memories.

Wall apparently believes that two pieces of paper, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, could have stopped Hitler from coming into power. Americans are so touchingly naive. In fact, the Weimer Constitution under which the Hitler movement grew was quite liberal -- it represented a wooly-headed attempt to make Germany into something more like America. Quite true that a sovereign parliament could pass a bill of attainder, but it hasn't been done for a few centuries. Why? Because the society is based upon civilized, self restraining, humane and moral values and attitudes. These represent the citizen's real protection. These are corroded by American rights based liberalism.

((And you call Americans naive. 'Civilized' and 'self-restraining'? Let a Henry Lee Lucas show up there and see how quickly a lynch mob forms inside the parliament! The difference between the American experience with a Constitutional government and the German is the American respect for courts. Had any early President decided to ignore the edicts of the Supreme court, we would have had a very different history. But the executive faithfully executes the court's decision, whether the President agrees with it or not. Hitler could not have come to power here.))

Bruce Linsey (excerpts, December 7)

In response to Nick Felella you state that people who aren't married should shouldn't have sex. Why do you attempt to impose your moral standards on others? If two consenting adults agree to have sex because they enjoy it, and if neither is hurting anyone else by doing so, then why shouldn't they go ahead? Some people, for various reasons, elect not to marry till their mid-thirties, or even at all. Does this mean they should deprive themselves of sexual pleasure because of other people's moral standards? I think not. To attempt to impose such constraints is to risk turning our country into a totalitarian state. I'm sure that neither you nor I, nor most other Americans, would wish for that to happen.

((I'm sorry Bruce, but I have to ask: Did you read my last letter column, or just skim it until you saw the word 'sex'? I said it was wrong for people to engage in sex without marriage. Nowhere in your letter did you refute that basic assumption; you did say that people should have a right to be wrong and that the state should keep its nose out of it. I agree, and in the comments that you picked up on I say as much. The argument was that the state shouldn't regulate abortions because it won't do any good, and because it pits the rights of the mother against the rights of the fetus. To say that something is wrong is not the equivalent of "Let's pass a law!"

Bruce had an additional page and a half on an argument that Steve Langley's zine The Not For Hire is not trying to keep the feud out of the hobby, but instead escalate it. He provided what he

felt were convincing arguments and evidence, but he has failed to do the one thing that everybody involved in this fight has failed to do: give me a reason why I should care. So I didn't print that part of his letter. Sorry. No doubt some will think I am being unfair, and maybe I am, but I will not discuss the various aspects of the feud or its subfeuds here. Those interested should look elsewhere.))

((The following excerpts are from a letter ripped off from Gary Coughlan's Europa Express. That is an excellent zine, if you can afford it.))

Michel Liesnard of Belgium

Your comments upon the article about Holland in EE#47 infuriated me. So, no matter the subject, we always come to defense, the Russians, the bipolar world and the American blood shed for the freedom of the Old Continent. What must we do? Prostrate ourselves in the direction of Washington five times a day?

In terms of blood shed, may I remind you the soldiers of Lafayette and Rochambeau, the sailors of Admiral d'Estaing, the Pirates of Laffitte (Laffitte ended his life in Brussels, where he financially supported a certain Karl Marx, I'm sure you didn't know this one)?

Always in terms of blood shed, where were you when France was bled white at Verdun? When Guernica, Warsaw, Rotterdam, Coventry, or London were bombed? I shall tell you: sitting comfortably on your non-interventionist principles and your cash and carry contracts.

We are the grandsons of the men who stopped the German imperialists over the Marne and who spent their best years in the mud of trenches. We are the sons of those men and women who were crushed by Nazi barbarity for four long years and who went on believing in democracy and freedom. Don't speak of blood shed, please, when you want to make us ashamed. We have already given.

And now, we should send our fleets to protect our oil trading routes? The latest time we did it, in 1956 during the Suez war, we received a polite ultimatum from Bulganin (then the Soviet leader) and Eisenhower to withdraw or be nuked. Thou may play with my balls, but not hang from them.

Where were the great Domino Theory experts when the French were desperately fighting at Dien-Bien-Phu? Drinking in the bars of Saigon, probably, and telling stories about the French division, the Belgian battalion, and the Luxembourg company who lost 50% of their effectives to protect the glorious retreat of the Marines and the British Guards after the crossing of the Yalu by the Chinese in Korea.

Now about the oil routes. We're in 1985, not 1974, dear. The Iranians may bomb the terminals in the Persian Gulf and mine the Strait of Hormuz if they like, most of our oil import comes from the pipe lines on the Mediterranean shore of Syria or the Red Sea. Our stocks are high and, in France or Belgium, more than 50% of our electricity is derived from nuclear plants. We have the fields of the North Sea too.

Of course we could build more ships. We still have some bucks that haven't been invested in the US of A to allow Ronnie being reelected with a record budgetary deficit. But many of us think there is a better solution.

Social security, that's our credo. If a superior fate made you intelligent, rich, smart, or fortunate, a significant part of your fortune must be derived to those who are poor, ugly, feeble. And since men are men, I.e. egotistical sods, there must be a State that forces you to take care of your brothers.

About the "beasts on two legs" and all that Beirut affair. Firstly, please note that I feel no sympathy at all for the murderers who martyred an innocent American citizen. But, on the other hand, I feel unable to call another human being a "beast." It is my pride, and perhaps my honor, to refuse and reject insults and to search for the reason behind any behavior. And it is also my pride to believe, like Condorcet, in the infinite ability men have to become better. The road to Damascus is open to anybody.

You make me nervous when you write you could have launched an air raid against the hijackers supporters in Beirut airport. You could have done that my friend? Killing children, and women, and innocent men, to avenge one American life? This perhaps explains why your compatriots are so much hated everywhere. Most Americans believe that, because they are American, the whole world should respect them. "Civis Romanus Sum," "I am a Roman citizen" said the Ambassadors of Rome 18 centuries ago, and most people bowed. But you must understand this. Most of us do not want to become Americans. Your society suits you perhaps, but it doesn't suit us. Many of us are in favor of a society that pays more attention to the small, the poor, the losers, and charges the winners.

((I am too full of the Christmas spirit to give this letter the answer it deserves. I will say that all poor people are not poor because they are stupid, ugly, or feeble. The people who are considered losers in our society only need the opportunity to win, not self righteous assistance from people who are 'better' than they are. The saddest thing about this letter is that it spurred several of EE's readers to agree with Gary that the US should pull out of NATO and tell Europe to go to hell. Mr. Liesnard is not representative of the European community. To prove this we need only qualify his words with a few facts about the man, as provided by EE#49. He works as a translator for two embassies in Belgium. The two are Nicaragua and Iran. I think a man should be judged by the company he keeps, and it is clear why Mr. Liesnard dislikes the US.))

More from Mark Lew:

As I understand it, any time someone defaults on a debt, the debt doesn't just disappear -- somebody ends up paying it. A simple debt might just get stuck on the lender, but I imagine a big bankruptcy or something gets diluted all around and gets innocent bystanders via high interest rates or inflation or something like that. (right so far?) That being the case I suppose you could say that because I don't want to pick up any else's debts, I make a contract with all my neighbors to agree that running up a debt you can't pay off is bad. Because having to pay for someone else is more tolerable than being killed, we agree that not paying one's debt isn't as bad as murder. Sounds perfectly reasonable to me. I am very fond of "social contract" explanation because they tend to make vague ideas taken for granted seem so concrete and sensible. I remember the first time I heard the idea I was so impressed that I went out and got Rousseau's book expecting it to reiterate what I already knew, but I was disappointed to discover that it mostly discussed entirely different stuff -- I forget exactly what. I think I've still got the book around here somewhere, maybe I'll try reading it again.

I suppose one might say that the US government will eventually pay off the debt so it's not guilty of "not paying one's debt"sin. But we all know the people who ran up the debt aren't the same people who will end up paying it off. That seems kind of cheap. From what I know of Gramm-Rudman, I don't care for it. there are even a few people who evade discussion of particulars and say the whole point of the bill is not to take effect but to threaten to do so, thus scaring the congress into balancing the budget. This sounds like pulling oneself up by one's bootstraps. The Congress has displayed its unwillingness to balance the budget; I don't see how that will change just because they have threatened themselves with a bill which they can always just repeal anyway.

I have trouble understanding why any liberals would back the bill. Let us adopt the simplified view that all the possible balanced budgets lie somewhere along the spectrum from left to right, all the congressmen have in their mind and ideal budget on that spectrum and are fighting and compromising to puy the budget as close to that point as they can, and Gramm-Rudman's "across the board" budget sits somewhere in the middle. If Gramm-Rudman works as it is supposed to, this across the board budget becomes a default budget, Reagan will simply veto any budget to the left of the default. In other words, the range of potential budgets has been chopped in half. The budget battle which once ranged from far left to far right now ranges from center to far right. Whether or not one thinks that is a good thing, it's hard to understand why a liberal like Kennedy would support such a thing. The only thing I can figure is that Ted expects to be in the White House in 88.

I get a little irked every time I hear people say how fair it is to hurt everyone equally with across the board cuts. These people aren't paying attention. According to the bill, indexed entitlements (e.g. pensions) suffer only COLA cuts, previously committed (military) contracts are exempt, and Social Security is exempt (though I understand that Mr. Gramm originally wanted Social Security in, and I admire that). Add to those the interest on the debt which is uncuttable by definition, and you're looking at about 50% of the budget which is immune to across the board cuts. Oh sure, that's fair.

A novel idea which might be tested on a municipal level is to put some sort of birth control chemical in the public water and make the antidote available from the government. I don't know if that sort of thing can be done -- chemically I mean.

((An interesting idea that we better not try in the heavily hispanic, Catholic Rio Grande Valley area. Maybe in Springfield. I don't think any but a handful of the Congressmen are the least concerned with whether or not the budget is balanced, only that their programs they buy votes with are safe. In Texas we are constitutionally forced to present a balanced budget, and the battles are not over how much to spend on a program, but how much do we take away from other things to do it. Real policy decisions are made regarding the importance of one program over another, because they all compete for the same dollars. That is why I support the idea of a Balanced Budget Amendment. I don't think the 'default' budget is anywhere close to center. When you consider all the programs that are exempt, it is actually a liberal budget. The point they still haven't addressed is that most of those programs shouldn't be handled by the Federal government at all, but should be turned over to the states. The House has completely screwed up the Tax Reform bill. Hopefully the Senate can fix it.))

HAPPY YULE, YA'LL!

Butter Battles

The address is still 3702 Tarragona Lane, Austin TX 78727 and now it looks like we'll be staying here or maybe moving to Atlanta. (Bay area plans fell through when the big I came up with a job for me in Palo Alto and one for Leslie in Sacramento - we would have spent half our lives commuting! Actually, they did have a job for me in Sacramento too, but I really had my heart set on living in the city and the work wasn't right either.)

Apparently nobody is interested in a new game. Hmph. Just for that you get an all black issue.

"Zwilniks" (1985A) Summer and Fall 1905, 12/14/85

Summer:

Russia: **NRR!!!** dislodged A NWY disbanded.

Fall:

England (Stephen Wilcox, 5300 W. Gulf Bank #103, Houston TX 77088)

F HEL S F swe-DEN, F NTH S F swe-DEN, F NWG S A NWY, A NWY H, A PIC-par, F por-MID, A ruh-HOL, F SKA S F swe-DEN, F swe-DEN.

France (Steve Langley, 2296 Eden Roc Lane #1, Sacramento CA 95825)

A PAR H.

Italy (Steve Arnawoodian, 602 Hemlock Cr., Lansdale PA 19446)

A BUR S A mun, F ion-EAS, A mun S ENGLISH A ruh-kie\NSO\Dsl: boh,ruh,tyo,Dsb\, F NAP S F TYR-ion, A tri-VIE, F TYR-ion, A ven-TRI.

Russia (Ronald Spitzer, 761 N. Bundy Dr., Los Angeles CA 90049)

A ank-CON, F bal-SWE, A BER S A kie-MUN, A bul-RUM, F con-BUL(sc), F den-ska\Dsl: bal,kie,Dsb\, A fin S A STP-nwy\NSU\, A GRE S ITALIAN A tri-alb\NSO\, F GUL S F bal-SWE, A kie-MUN, A liv-WAR, A ser-BUD, A SIL S A kie-MUN, A SMY S A ank-CON, A STP-nwy.

Turkey (Paul Milewski, Box 256, Batavia, OH 45103)

F AEG S F ALB-ion, F ALB-ion.

Supply center chart:

England: bel, bre, den, edi, hol, liv, lon, NWY, por, spa - 9/10 - may build 1.

France: par - 1/1 - even.

Italy: mar, nap, rom, tri, tun, ven, VIE - 7/7 or 6/7 - even or may build 1.

Russia: ank, ber, bud, bul, CON, gre, kie, mos, MUN, rum, ser, sev, SMY, stp, swe, war - 14/16 or 13/16 - may build 2 (no room for 3).

Turkey: - 2/0 - out (removes both).

GAME NOTES:

- Deadline is Saturday, **January 11th** for Autumn/Winter 1905 and Spring 1906.
- I didn't get orders from Larry Peery. Steve Langley is now FRANCE. Thank you Steve!
- The ITALY/RUSSIA draw failed. ENGLAND, FRANCE, ITALY, and TURKEY vetoed by not voting. New proposals: please **vote on an ENGLAND/RUSSIA draw and on concession to RUSSIA**.
- The NMR prize pool is still \$25.00. Nobody had any complaints about donating any excess(over \$20.00) of that to "hobby services." Good. (Seems like none of you care what I think a "hobby service" is either.)
- Standbys: J. Early(ENGLAND), M. Fleming, Givan, Kohn(RUSSIA), and Luedi(GM). Speak up if you want on or off the list. Thanks!

PRESS:

STANDBY FRANCE to ZWILNIKS\F If I get this position I am going to petition the BNC to rule this game irregular on the grounds that any game abandoned by Larry Peery should not be rated. The game is supposed to be "Postal Diplomacy", not "Mental Telepathy Diplomacy".

humble gm to non-STANDBY FRANCE\CSM Hey, I play "Mental Telepathy Diplomacy" lots! But the GMs always call it "Gunboat".

STANDBY FRANCE to PEERY:\F Come off it Larry. Why hassle a new GM over something that has been going on since 1962 in the Dip Hobby?

humble gm to non-STANDBY FRANCE\CSM Good to have you aboard sir. As players to GMs, Larry and I both have been a tad troublesome to the other. Personality-wise we're opposites I suppose, which could explain why we like each other(I think) but have gotten at times frustrated with each other's GMing. Hmmm. For our next trick -- maybe -- we'll play a game as an A/I "alliance"!

That was 10.0. Map too? We'll see.

N WILNIKS (85A)
FALL '05
12/14/85

WILCOX

LANGLEY

ARMANDOIAN

MILEWSKI

SPITZER

