

Dear Lady Laura:
 "Are you really a Lady?"
 ANSWER: You bet your sweet ass,
 Honey!!!

FIVE HUNDREDTH ISSUE

GRAUSTARK

3 NOVEMBER 1984

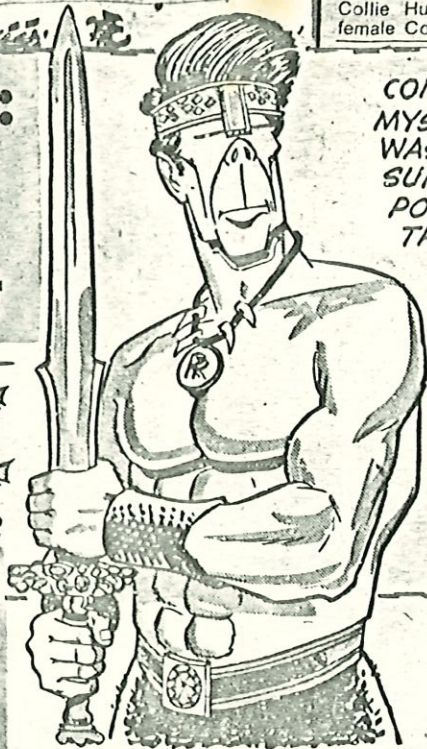
How has the most conservative president in fifty years managed to preside over the largest budget deficit in history? By following his principles.

Collie Husky will breed with female Collie. 390-2807.

Abortion: Another Way Out

RONNIE

THE DESTROYER



CONCEALED INSIDE THE
 MYSTERIOUS CITY OF
 WASHINGTON IS THE
 SUPREME SYMBOL OF
 POWER...
 THE PRESIDENCY

ONLY ONE MAN,
 RONNIE,
 HAS THE POWER
 TO GET
 IT!

No News Is Good News ?

The Clarion recently received a press release from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Information with not a word written on it.

Films, Howard Lester's "Airplane Glue I Love You," Mike Sullivan's "Quick Snatch," "No Smoking," Ken Schneider's "Sparktaurus," Film Forum, 256 West 88th Street, 8 and 10 p. m. (\$1 plus \$1.50 membership).

WE WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT...



...WE HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL WHO WE LET UNDERSTAND US!



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Coming Up

Dear Sir:
 I hope you will have many articles on fucking during the coming months to cheer up the winter.

—Les Cammer
 Santa Barbara, California



EVERYTIME I THINK OF REAGAN AND MONDALE, I WANT TO PRAY...

Champagne delivered to yr pal by a stripping guy or gal. Peel-a-Gram's the one to call, the classiest one by far of them all. 947-3086



"Sometimes I really regret discovering America."

Aliens block freeway

DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT MY UNCLE NICK? HE LOVES TO DESTROY THINGS. HE CAN SHRED A RECLINER IN 12 SECONDS...



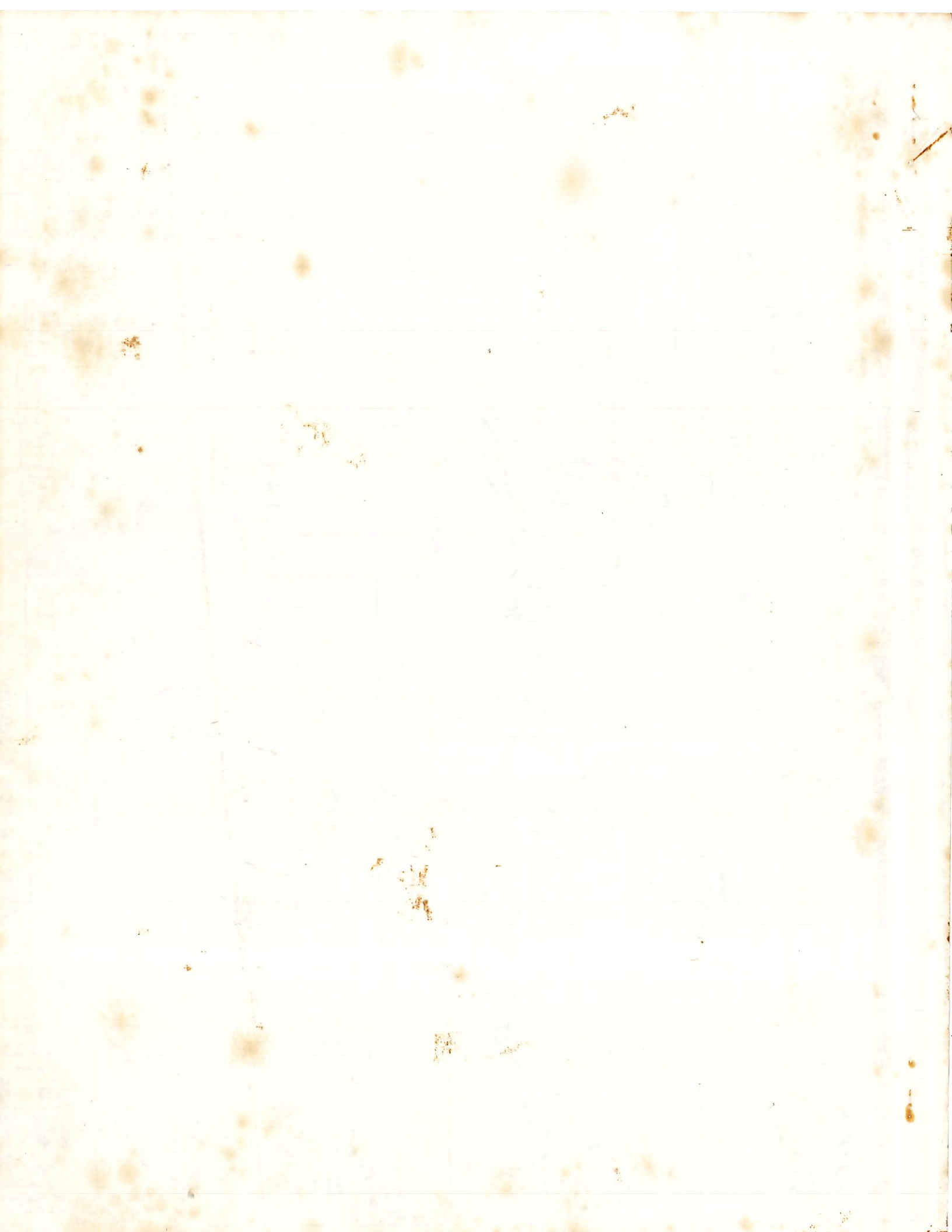
MANGLE FERNS BY THE CARLOAD AND TURN A SET OF CHINA INTO POWDER IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE



HE IS PRESENTLY A POSTAL EMPLOYEE IN CHICAGO



"I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WORKED HARD FOR MY MILLIONS!"



ANNOUNCEMENTS, GLAD AND OTHERWISE

This is the five hundredth issue of GRAUSTARK since I began the postal play of Allan B. Calhamer's board game Diplomacy with GRAUSTARK #1 in May 1963. I would like to thank all the readers who have written me, congratulating me for attaining this milestone. It is a pleasure to publish this 'zine, and to serve our hobby.

However, it has appeared for a couple of years now that the United States Postal "Service" has been increasingly unable to deliver the mail in time to make GRAUSTARK's three-week deadline feasible. For its first ten years, GRAUSTARK ran on a two-week deadline. In March 1973 the postal system had deteriorated to the point where I had to go to a three-week deadline. Last year, in response to players in the South, California, and Canada, I polled readers about whether GRAUSTARK ought not perhaps have a four-week deadline. I received several statements that a three-week deadline keeps the game moving, and reader opinion split just about down the middle on this point. At the time, I decided to stay with a three-week deadline.

It now seems that a three-week deadline is too much to expect. The last three issues of GRAUSTARK were collated, labeled, and put into the mail on late Saturday or early Sunday. All were postmarked Tuesday. Apparently this delay is not just a one-time accident, but a part of the permanent function of the USP'S". And I understand that the Postal "Service" has instituted a hiring freeze, and will not even follow its usual practice of hiring extra help for the Christmas rush. This means that we can anticipate even worse delays in the forthcoming holiday season.

In 1968, when the U. S. Post Office Department was abandoned with many cries against its political patronage and essentially socialistic management, the first-class postage rate was 8¢ and the GRAUSTARK deadline was two weeks. Now, after 16 years of this "semi-private corporation" that was going to eliminate the slowness and inefficiency of the USPOD, the first-class postage rate will soon go to 22¢, and GRAUSTARK now goes to a four-week deadline. The next deadline for all moves in the current games is NOON, FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER 1984.

Sorry, gang, but it just couldn't be helped. For the time being I'll keep EMPIRE; my other postal war-gaming 'zine, on a 3-week schedule.

TWO NEW GAMES OPEN

Two new postal Diplomacy games have been organized in GRAUSTARK. Until Bill Quinn assigns them Boardman Numbers, players should refer to them as "New Game I" and "New Game II". New Game I is organized entirely among residents of New York and Massachusetts, and we'll see if this makes the negotiations faster and easier. The deadline for "Spring 1901" moves in both games is NOON, FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER 1984.

I.

ENGLAND: Evan Loiacono, 157-18 Cryders Lane, Beechhurst, N. Y. 11357
 FRANCE: Lawrence Chafetz, Apt. 2-M, 178-10 Wexford Terrace, Jamaica, N. Y. 11432
 GERMANY: Vincent J. Manna, #1, 2217 West St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11223; 718-336-1156
 ITALY: Douglas K. Clarke, Box 5265, University of Lowell, Lowell, Mass. 01854
 AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: John Schwartz, 3530 Henry Hudson Parkway, Bronx, N. Y. 10463;
 212-549-5279 or 212-543-4319
 RUSSIA: Nunzio Paul Schembari, 210 Chinook Dr., Syracuse, N. Y. 13210
 TURKEY: Ted London, 1122 John Jay Hall, c/o Wallach Hall, New York, N. Y. 10027;
 212-280-6295

II.

ENGLAND: Daniel Larose, 17 Gramacy Park, Agawam, Mass. 01001
 FRANCE: Charles Gratto, 1120 Garfield Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010; 515-292-8511
 GERMANY: Scott Cameron, 4 Meadow Lane, Hicksville, N. Y. 11801; 516-938-7057

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Unless otherwise indicated, all contents are by the publisher, including the assemblage of the collage cover. GRAUSTARK, the first bulletin for the postal play of Diplomacy, is published every fourth Saturday by John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11226. Much to my surprise, this is the 500th issue, a fact for which I would like to thank the hundreds of people who have played in the over 100 games that have run in this magazine since its founding 21½ years ago. In fact, two new games have just opened in this issue, and more are still available. The game fee is \$18.00, and includes a subscription as long as the game lasts. With your entry fee, please send in a list of the countries that you'd like to play, in your order of preference. Subscriptions for non-players are 9 issues for \$6.00. Back issues from #467 are available at 10 issues for \$1.50. Also available are a few earlier issues, particularly including #437, in which the postal rules for Diplomacy were last published. (If you don't already have a copy, send for one with your entry.) Back issues get cleaned out on the first Saturday of every year, which means that in January of 1985 all unclaimed back issues from 1983 will be thrown out. If you'd like back issues, send for them soon.

Diplomacy was designed by Allan B. Calhmer and is published by Avalon-Hill in Baltimore.

I would like to thank the readers who responded to my invitation to contribute to this especially large issue of GRAUSTARK, and also apologize for the announcement that appears at the top of page 3. However, I feel that circumstances have made it impossible to hold to the three-week deadline.

BOOK REVIEWS

All book reviews are by the editor unless otherwise specified.

MORE THAN FLASHMAN

The name of the contemporary Scottish author George MacDonald Fraser will forever be linked with his literary creation Harry Flashman. Seven novels detailing the adventures of this scapegrace sprig of the English landed gentry, have already appeared, bringing him from his expulsion from Rugby in 1839 to his escape from the Indian Rebellion of 1857, with a postlude at the Battle of the Little Bog Horn in 1876.

Yet Fraser's versatility extends beyond Flashman. He has written two collections of short stories, based on his experiences as an officer in a Highland regiment in the late 1940s: The General Danced at Dawn and McAuslan in the Rough. His non-fiction work The Steel Bonnets is an excellent book on the perpetual campaigns and raids along the Anglo-Scottish border before the union of the two kingdoms.

However, Fraser's deepest book yet is Mr. American (Simon & Schuster, 1980). Its hero, Mark Franklin, enters as a very wealthy American who emigrates to England and settles in the Norfolk village from which his ancestors emigrated during the troubles of the 17th century. But Franklin is not all he appears to be. Before striking rich at a silver lode in Nevada, he had been a gunfighter, a sometime associate of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, and the winner of a few fatal shoot-outs, though always in self-defense. And, as you might expect, his past catches up with him.

This book is written in the third person, which makes possible a richer development of character than we see in the autobiographical Flashman narratives. The other characterizations are also better done, as this is a much more ambitious and serious work than the popular Flashman series. Mr. Franklin is precipitated into the aristocratic British society of 1909, then enjoying what was to be its last fling of unconscious domination of the lower classes, the nation, the empire, and the world. His wealth gets him set up as a gentleman in his ancestral village, and he wins sufficient social acceptance to marry the daughter of a local squire.

Yet throughout this book you get the impression that Fraser really does not care for the aristocracy. The openly rowdy or arrogant young aristocrats are delineated with hostile care, and even the more sympathetic people - such as Franklin's wife - turn out to have hidden flaws in their character, if "flaw" is the right word for something that was apparently an integral part of this class.

Like Flashman, whom Franklin resembles in few other respects, this parvenu American has a facility for running into the great under informal circumstances. While rambling in the countryside, shortly after his arrival, he gets lost and meets an obviously wealthy elderly gentleman, with grizzled whiskers and little piggish eyes, picnicking in the country with a woman young enough to be his daughter, but who decidedly isn't. This gentleman introduces himself as a "Mr. Lancaster", but Franklin eventually compares his profile with that on a coin in his pocket.

This encounter not only leads to Franklin's meeting his eventual wife, but also procures him an invitation to the royal country residence at Sandringham. And, while there, he wanders away from a boring wrangle about navy policy between two gentlemen named Fisher and Churchill, to meet a most remarkable old character of 87. This apparition roars about stupid politicians, reminisces about women he'd known fifty or sixty years ago, orders in the strong drink, and pinches the tweenies. It is, of course, General Sir Harry Flashman, VC and a whole lot of other stuff. It turns out that Franklin has already met his grandniece, a red-hot suffragist.

After Franklin and his aristocratic lady get squared away, there is a five-year hiatus. Then, in the best tradition of the novel, everything falls in at once. And the month it picks to collapse is July 1914.

In hindsight, we see that fateful month rather differently from Franklin.

For the British, the biggest issue going was the apparent intention of the Irish Protestants of the island's north to go into revolt if Home Rule was granted at long last to that long-suffering island. Great Britain, the wealthiest and most powerful nation on earth, was about to face the implications of the question, "What if the army won't do what the government tells it?" The agitation of the Austro-Hungarian government over the assassination of the heir to the throne was, by comparison, a very distant cloud on a not closely watched horizon. And, with partition, the issue of Ireland remains unsettled to this day, though it is as true now as it was in 1914 that the last war in Ireland will be between the Ulster Protestants and the British Army.

As Mark Franklin's life falls to pieces about him, war is declared. On the evening of 3 August 1914 he has dinner with General Flashman at a Hungarian restaurant in Knightsbridge, while Flashman ogles the waitresses' bosoms and the Prime Minister demands the withdrawal of German troops from Belgium. Flashman, in full uniform with all his orders, has some very sensible things to say about war:

"...like most idiots you think of war as being between states - colored blobs on the map. You think if we can keep Belgium green... instead of Prussian blue, then hurrah for everyone. But war ain't between colored blobs - it's between people... Imagine yourself a Belgian - in Liège, say? Along come the Prussians and invade you. What about it? - a few cars commandeered, a shop or two looted, half a dozen girls knocked up, a provost marshal installed, and the storm's passed. Fierce fighting with the Frogs, who squeal like hell because Britain refuses to help, the Germans reach Paris, peace concluded, and that's that. And there you are, getting on with your garden in Liège. But...suppose Britain helps, sends forces to aid little Belgium...against the Teuton horde? What then? Belgian resistance is stiffened, the Frogs manage to stop the invaders, a hell of a war is waged all over Belgium and northeast France, and after God knows how much slaughter and destruction the Germans are beat - or not, as the case may be. How's Liège now? I'll tell you - it's a bloody shambles. You're lying mangled in your cabbage patch, your wife's had her legs blown off, your daughters have been raped, and your house is a mass of rubble. You're a lot better off for British intervention, ain't you?"

After the meal, Franklin and Flashman ~~drive~~ drive to Buckingham Palace to see the immense crowd that has gathered to celebrate the outbreak of war. Such crowds, we are told, gathered in the capital of every European nation on that weekend, singing the better known verses of their respective national anthems, cheering their kings, emperors, or presidents, and looking forward to a short, glorious, victorious war that will solve every trouble that their nation had. Even in 1939 this didn't happen, and in 1939 the participant nations felt that the whole future of their national independence and way of life hung in the balance, not just a few colonies and border districts and a little loot.

And why does old General Flashman get an escort of horse guards to take him through this packed assemblage into the palace? Why, because he drank rather too well at his meal, and this is the most convenient easance.

After this high point, the rest of the book is an anti-climax. The ending, in fact, is oddly unsatisfactory. But Fraser has tried here a more ambitious project than the Flashman books, and deserves the credit of this greater effort at serious fiction.

Recently another new Fraser novel has come out - The Pyrates. It is placed, with very little attempt at historical accuracy and a great deal at turning neat phrases, in the merry reign of King Charles II. Here, however, the inaccuracies are deliberate; Fraser is obviously having fun with the "Ha! me proud wench!" school of historical fiction. I expect to publish a review of this book in a future issue of GRAUSTARK. I may even have to write that review myself, though if a reader wants to undertake it, I would appreciate it.

BACK TO THE TRIUNE MONARCHY

Avram Davidson, who has been writing science-fiction, fantasy, and detective stories - sometimes not clearly delineated from one another - for nearly half a century, has created a country he can run all by himself. This, in itself, is not a novel thing in literature, even mainstream literature. GRAUSTARK, after all, was named after George Barr McCutcheon's eastern European kingdom, which he created for a romantic adventure novel in 1901. Other early postal Diplomacy 'zines followed this custom, and were headed with the names of other imaginary countries: Ruritania, Broddingnag, Costaguana, Orthanc, Bangladesh, and so forth.

To the best of my knowledge, no postal Diplomacy 'zine has yet appeared with the title The Triune Monarchy of Scythia-Pannonia-Transbalkania. This political entity, which sprawled over parts of the Balkans at some indefinite time in the quarter-century preceding World War I, first appeared in print about a decade ago in Davidson's "Dr. Eszterhazy" stories in Fantasy & Science-Fiction. They were eventually collected in The Enquiries of Doctor Eszterhazy (Warner, 1975).

In these stories we meet Dr. Engelbert Eszterhazy, who has five doctorates and sixteen quarterings of nobility. He is somewhere around 45 or 50 at the time, I should judge. The Empire, of which a map is included in the paperback, with all its various peoples, is under the rule of 81-year-old Emperor Ignatz Louis of the House of Hohenschupfen - a muddle-headed but decent-hearted old man whose instinct for saying the right thing at the right time is all that seems to hold this variegated empire together against the centrifugal strains among the Scythian Goths, the Pannonian Avars, Vlox, the Tartars, the Hyperboreans, the Slovatchkos, and a few miscellaneous Turks and Jews. With all the skill of Randall Carrett's Lord d'Arcy, but without his insufferable arrogance, Dr. Eszterhazy solves various natural and supernatural mysteries that threaten the civil peace of his beloved empire. Very often these involve the Emperor, since the head of the Eszterhazy house, Count Eszterhazy-Eszterhazy, is an Imperial Equerry, and the good doctor's aunt is married to the Heir. (Oy vey, that Heir!)

It is, of course, impossible to read three paragraphs into a Dr. Eszterhazy story without being reminded of the historical Austro-Hungarian Empire, complete with the obvious similarities between Franz Josef and Ignatz Louis. Like Fraser in Mr. American, Davidson is clearly attracted to the Europe of pre-World-War-I years. However, Davidson is rather less critical than Fraser. To this day, people may be heard to lament the downfall of the Dual Monarchy, and in Austria to this day the reign of Kaiser Franz Josef is called die gute alte Zeit, "the good old days". Yet this longing is nostalgia, not history, and for an antidote to it the reader is referred to George R. Marek's The Eagles Die, or to Vladimir Dedijer's The Road to Sarajevo.

The date of the later Dr. Eszterhazy stories is never quite clear. In most of them the Emperor is 81; Franz Josef was 81 in 1911. Yet that seems too late an ambience, and Davidson has told me that a decade earlier would be more appropriate. In the first story, "Polly Charms, the Sleeping Woman", we meet a woman who was allegedly frightened into catatonia during the siege of Paris, 30 years earlier, which would put the story in 1901. Yet Davidson hedges this claim around with so many doubts that the time remains dubious.

Now, Avram Davidson has come through with his long-promised "prequel", "Young Dr. Eszterhazy" (Amazing Science-Fiction, November 1984). Like the previously written stories, this takes place in the Triune Monarchy's capital, Bella. (A street map of Bella resembles one of Vienna, upside-down.) But in this story Engelbert Eszterhazy is a youngling with the rank of Cornet, a couple of campaigns under his belt, and a post as an Imperial Equerry. The American Civil War is spoken of as being in the past, General George Armstrong Custer is spoken of as alive, and the Franco-Prussian War is not spoken of at all, so we may tentatively assume a date sometime around 1870, with "Engli" in his very early twenties. This would fit with the circa 1901 ambience of the later stories. In addition, editor George Scithers informs us in the introduction to "Young Doctor Eszterhazy" that "the kingdom of Scythia-Pannonia-Transbalkania is a 19th century descendant of what was once the Middle Roman Empire." This ties it in with that ancient political entity, which figures in Davidson's equally enjoyable

novels Peregrine: Primus and Peregrine: Secundus, the first of which was reviewed in these pages several years ago.

"Young Doctor Eszterhazy" has elements of farce in it, and it concludes with a chase sequence that would make the fortune of an action film - it involves cavalry, an Amerind shaman, a Lappish shaman, and a general uproar. In the course of the story we find that Davidson has created for us another realm of pre-World-War-I Europe: the Union of Scandia and Froreland, ruled over by King Magnus IV and III, who makes an incognito visit to Bella to get away from political turmoil in his sub-arctic kingdoms. For the rest of it, the story is filled with those delightful allusions and digressions which characterize most Davidson stories, and a good time will be had by all.

Other s-f writers have discovered the utility of small eastern European realms of that era as settings for adventure and/or fantasy stories. Ron Goulart's The Prisoner of Blackwood Castle has an American adventurer solving mysteries which, in 1897, afflict "Orlandia, that small sovereign nation on the eastern fringes of the vast Habsburg Empire." But, though it may be too ornate for some tastes, Avram Davidson's Triune Monarchy is the best-drawn and most complex of these nations.

HOW DID WE GET THIS WAY?

By the middle 1960s, society in the United States seemed to be coming apart. The definitive dates for this unraveling have been set at different points by different writers. Some pinpoint the assassination of President Kennedy in November 1963. Some go for one of two 1964 events: President Johnson's declaration of war on Vietnam, or the first appearance of the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan show. Some look to April 1965, at the first Washington demonstration against the war with Vietnam.

But what had set this up? How did the United States get from the powerful and apparently unified nation of 1945 to the turmoil of 1963-1974? What undercurrents through our national consciousness were circulating during those (in retrospect, at least) happy, prosperous, and untroubled years? For the lack of a book on this topic, Marty Jezer has decided to write his own: The Dark Ages: Life in the United States 1945-1960 (South End Press, Boston, 1982)

Jezer actually begins during World War II, showing how under a façade of national unity towards victory the men recruited from high corporate management levels directed U. S. wartime policy to their eventual peacetime advantage. This continued after the war, as President Truman instituted a sweeping program to identify and remove "Communists" from the government. (This campaign is usually attributed to Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, in the period 1950-1954, but he only built upon the foundations laid by Truman and other liberal Democrats during the late 1940s.) Anti-Communist crusades appeared in Hollywood, in the schools, in the government, and in political campaigns. Jezer sees much of this as growing out of a realization, by the captains of industry, that while they could trade with Communist countries they could not invest in them. This removal of one third of the world from the sphere available to American corporate investment had to be fought by every means available.

We get details of other events of that period. We learn how General Motors acquired control of American transportation by driving trolleys out of business, to be replaced by their own buses. We see how several industries went from large numbers

* - When this period of unrest ended is also in doubt. Some put it in 1970, when the shootings at Kent State gave people an idea of how much force the government was prepared to use to suppress the Pacifist movement. Others place it with the bombing of a military research center in Wisconsin that year, or with the failure of the anti-war demonstrations in Washington in May 1971. Some attribute the discouraging effects of President Nixon's landslide victory in 1972, while others identify the general disillusionment with the political process that accompanied the Watergate revelations in 1973 or the President's resignation in 1974. This is rather too late; by the time Watergate became a daily headline in the newspapers, the anti-war movement had receded into silence, and the people who got President Nixon's scalp in 1974 were themselves, almost to a man, on record in favor of the war with Vietnam.

of small companies to small numbers of enormous companies; while the beer business is thus specifically studied, numerous others fall into this same pattern. The transitions from family farms to "agribusiness", from messy but socially integrated slum communities to unlivable housing projects, and from assembly-line industries to automated (and increasingly non-union) factories are also detailed.

By the late 1950s, rebels against these developments were beginning to appear. Jezer, in my opinion, does not give adequate treatment to the rising civil rights movement of that period, which looked beyond mere social equality for Negroes to a general social reconstruction. It was out of the civil rights movement that the anti-war movement of the 1960s grew. Jezer gives what seems to me to be unnecessary weight to the cultural rebels against the post-war consensus that began to appear in the late 1950s - the so-called "beatniks". (There is some belief that the "Beat Generation" was actually a creation of the Luce publications, to boost circulation.) Jack Kerouac, Alan Ginsberg, and Neal Cassady are turned into seminal figures of protest and rebellion, the equivalents in an American context of Marat, Lenin, or Mao!

Jezer writes with obvious reference to the governmental and social policies now being enforced by the Reagan Administration. "But the lessons of the 1960s have not all been forgotten," he incants. "Whatever policies the right wing has in store, Americans will not be as acquiescent in their own suppression, as they were during the postwar years." In the light of current events, there seems little reason for Jezer's optimism. The consensus of student opinion is indeed harder to come by than it was 15 years ago, since today's student generation realizes that social protest endangers one's chances on the job market. But student opinion, as much as that of other segments of society, supports the President's military policies all over the world, does not concern itself with the sufferings of the lower economic levels, and even favors the military draft. And if a student, or anyone else, says: "The Rights of Group X are being Trampled Upon!", you may be sure that that person is a member of Group X. Nonmembers just aren't interested; look what has happened to the once-powerful Black-Jewish alliance of civil rights movement days.

Next Tuesday, President Reagan is certainly going to reap the benefits of one of the great landslides of American electoral history...and the percentage of those eligibles who vote will fall to a new low. So much for Jezer's belief that the unrest of the 1960s will ever be seen again.

IT NEVER HAPPENED, BUT IT SHOULD HAVE*

A few pages back, I put on stencil the wish that some reader would write a review of George MacDonald Fraser's The Pyrates (Knopf, New York, 1984) Since then I have decided to do it myself.

The Pyrate is Fraser's send-up of all the pirate novels and movies ever made, many of which he lists in a bibliography along with his historical sources. As a result, the story is liberally packed with incongruities and anachronisms. Some of these are all right, but Fraser tends to overload his narrative with off-hand references to anachronisms until they begin to become a little tiring. Apparently the rigid adherence to historical events in the Flashman books has produced a reaction, and Fraser here runs wild.

The Pyrates continually reminds me of a little-known and even less appreciated pastiche of the same sort, which appeared in 1941: No Bed for Bacon, or, Shakespeare Sows an Oat (Thomas Y. Crowell, New York, 1950). This one deals with the Elizabethan Age in much the same spirit as Fraser handles the Restoration; in a few weeks events from 1588 to 1613 are crammed. The humor is less broad and more subtle than Fraser's, but it appeals more to the history of historical fiction than it does to the duller history that scholars are stuck with.

The heroes and heroines of The Pyrates are all appropriately heroic, and con-

* - A few issues ago, an Italian-American reader objected to my treatment of the phrase "Si non è vero, è ben trovato." I have therefore rendered this saying into English.

dict themselves as the strictures of the Hayes Office were still in effect. The principal male protagonists are Captain Benjamin Avery, RN, and Colonel Thomas Blood, Cashiered. Avery is unbelievably noble, and Blood is a cad, though not a real-life cad like Flashman - he is more a Movie Cad, a hero gone wrong, whose goal at the end of the film is redemption, death, or both. Incidentally, there really was a Colonel Thomas Blood, who stole the crown jewels, got caught - and got pardoned after a personal interview with King Charles II, a matter which remains a mystery to this day. (If the dates weren't against it, I would have speculated that Blood turned out to be a royal bastard.) Blood was never, in fact, a pirate, but Fraser remedies that little matter here.

And there are fayre ladies also - ~~three~~ four of them: the haughty blonde daughter of an English lord, the fiery brunette daughter of a Spanish grandee, and two Pyrate Queens - one of course is Anne Bonney, and the other is a clever and vicious black woman, Sheba. In a postlogue, Fraser cites her as being modeled after "a Dahomey Amazon with echoes of Lola Montez (and) Queen Ranavalona", ladies whom we have met in the Flashman books. Anne Bonney may also be a literary invention; historians seem fairly sure that she, along with the pirate republic of Libertatia, are inventions of an 18th-century literary hack.

The villain is also of epic film proportions - and epic personal proportions as well, as his name tells us: Don Lardo Baluna. He is, in the stage-Spanish accents used throughout, "Viceroy of the Eñdeez". For the purposes of this novel, the Viceroyal Seathas been moved from México City to Cartagena, since it would be a little difficult for a pirate fleet to assail Mexico City.

Also in the cast of characters are several more or less historical Brethren of the Coasts - pirates, that is. Perhaps reflecting the fact that crewmen had more rights on a pirate ship than on any other of the period, one of the ships has a Welsh shop steward named Aneurin, who is forever raising points about the contract, or threatening a strike.

Miguel de Cervantes satirized the medieval knightly epic so thoroughly that this entire genre of literature forthwith disappeared. Someday, some public benefactor will do the same for "Regency" romances. The Pyrates does not quite do this for the type of novel or film established by Rafael Sabatini, Errol Flynn, and Tyrone Power, but it tries hard. (There may even be a sequel, since all the major characters are left alive at the end, and in our last view of Avery, three amorous women are simultaneously advancing on him.) Right after reading it, you should put the film Yellowbeard on the VCR for a double-header.

"NINETEEN-EIGHTY-WHAT?"

With the arrival of the real 1984, interest has revived in George Orwell's 1949 cacotopian novel 1984. Though I commented on this interest in January (in the 294th issue of DAGON, my s-f fanzine), I missed one possibility, which has been made up for us by the Hungarian dissident György Dalos.* (1985: What Happens after Big Brother Dies, Pantheon, 1984) Dalos takes up where Orwell left off. He assumes that, in December 1984, Oceania suffers a catastrophic military defeat at the hands of Eurasia. Big Brother dies of shock after an extended illness, and Oceania must suffer a victor's peace that removes America and Africa from its sphere of influence, cutting it back apparently to the British Isles.

Dalos, who was expelled from the Hungarian Communist Party in 1968 for "Maoist" activities, makes obvious reference here to the succession crises that have taken place in Communist nations after the deaths of strong leaders, particularly Stalin in the USSR in 1953, and Mao in China in 1976. There is even an attempt by Big Brother's widow, "Big Sister", to continue the dictatorship, followed by a reaction against her. She is overthrown, and severely condemned for the excesses that were really her husband's fault, though no one even now dares say so. (Does this sound familiar?)

In circumstances like this, when a long one-man tyranny ends with the tyrant's death, three tendencies develop. One tries to keep the old regime going, and claims

* - Pronounced "Geörge Dalosh", complete with umlaut.

that any relaxation from the old standards will bring about social dissolution and catastrophe. One goes all-out for greater liberalization and the democratizing of the regime. And one goes along with this for awhile, and then cracks down in a new orthodoxy, not as oppressive as the old one, but not the freer future to which the liberalizers had looked forward. In 1985 these three tendencies are respectively identified with James O'Brien, Winston Smith, and Julia Miller. As a consequence, O'Brien is sent to a psychiatric hospital, Smith is shuffled out of politics, and Miller becomes Minister of Culture in the new regime.

A great many minor characters from 1984 appear here, including poor, pudgy little Parsons, who eventually commits suicide because he can't stand so much freedom. Dalos makes a few minor errors and changes to Orwell's original text, however. Two minor characters, called "Aaronson" and "Withers" in 1984, here become "Maronson" and "Whiters". ("Whiters", a profiteer in navy supplies in 1984, becomes the new government's economics expert! Well, look what changes are now taking place in the Chinese economy!) Dalos describes North Africa as a region severed from Oceania by defeat, though Orwell said that South Africa was the only part of the continent securely under Oceanian control. And it seems that two centers of capitalism exist, little enclaves in the three-power world of that era, tolerated only because of the luxury goods they produce: Hong Kong and Brazzaville. (This account is allegedly published in Irkutsk, Eurasia, in 2035, based on memoirs of Smith and O'Brien, smuggled out and published in these two enclaves.)

Just as 1984 gave us Orwell's jaundiced view of the Stalinism of the late 1940s, Dalos is presenting us with sardonic comments on the liberalizations of the various Communist states in our own time. Dalos has the advantage that he has actually lived through this process, while Orwell's only direct experience in this sort of thing was the internecine struggles among the Spanish Republican forces during the Spanish Civil War. Not that 1985 will ever reach classic status; so few of us share Dalos's experiences that his references to internal Communist politics may fall a bit flat here. But it's a short book, a good read, and amusing in places. The increasingly acidulous footnotes from the "Historian" who is allegedly editing this work in Irkutsk detract from the general impression that, I suppose, 1985 is trying to make.

THE TEFLON ARCHDUKE

When Diplomacy was first published by Allan B. Calhamer in 1959, some war-gamers wondered why he had chosen World War I. Diplomacy was, to the best of my knowledge, the first war game based on that conflict, and the viewpoint of the time was that it was rather futile, since it has to be fought all over again 20 years later at a much greater cost in lives and money and the intangibles of civilization. But nevertheless it was the first "modern" war, the first war since the medieval Völkerwanderungen in which entire nations staked themselves on the outcome, or were so staked by others. And it was the first really mechanized war, and the first war fought by that 20th-century phenomenon, Mass Man. It was the first war that involved the nations right down to the last peasant, tramp laborer, and school child. When Karl Marx wrote that "the worker has no homeland", he may have been right, but between Marx's time and 1914, the nations of Europe labored to give the workers and their wives homelands, through a system of mass primary education reaching down to the very lowest levels of society, and indoctrinating children with the worship of the Sacred Nation. Kurt Tuchosky put it very well, a few years after World War I:

"Die Nation ist das achte Sakrament-!
Gott segne diesen Kontinent."

"The nation's the eighth sacrament -
May God bless this our continent."

Since World War I brought such a profound change in the world's understanding of war, nationality, and the state, and set up Communism and Fascism, its origins have been the subject of a great deal of historical study. In fact, Calhamer was inspired to design Diplomacy by his experiences as a student of the influential historian Sydney Fay, author of The Origins of the World War (1928). Fay challenged the then

prevalent belief that the "Great War" had been caused solely by Evil Germans. He traced the establishment of two opposed blocs of nations, led respectively by France and Germany, and dedicated to the possibility that the rival block might have to be extirpated in a huge war. Unfortunately, Fay's largely accurate view went overboard when it came to the act that was the immediate cause of this long-a-building war: the assassination, on 28 June 1914, of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, by the Bosnian nationalist Gavrilo Princip.

This act has achieved an importance in popular history which it may not deserve. One still sometimes hears the notion that, had Princip not shot the Archduke and his morganatic wife Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, the First World War (and the Second one) would not have taken place, and Europe would still be master of the world, happily staggering along under the old dynasties and the old empires.

Actually, the two blocs had incompatible ideas about how Europe and the world were to be organized. England wanted to retain its redominant position in the world, as a colonial power and in trade, and Germany wanted to supplant England in both these respects - even going so far as to accumulate a number of unremunerative colonies simply because England also had a colonial empire. Austria-Hungary, Russia, and Turkey wanted to retain their imperial dominion over large numbers of subject peoples who were chafing at the yoke and desiring independence. (The question of why people would rather be tyrannized and exploited by people who speak their own language, rather than who speak foreign languages, is the most enduring question of our time. If anyone can think of an answer, please let me know.) France wanted revenge for the humiliating defeat which Germany had inflicted on her in 1870. Italy, Serbia, and Rumania wanted to knock off chunks of the Austro-Hungarian Empire which were inhabited by their kinfolk. Poland wanted to reconstitute itself as the nation whose troops had once marched from Vienna to Moscow.

Still, while any event might have set off the smouldering conflict, the assassination in Sarajevo did. And, because of the many human elements in it, this assassination has done so. Some see the tragic couple of victims as the protagonists, and get sentimental about their problems with the old Emperor. Others concentrate on Princip, the young enthusiast, smarting under the centuries of oppression which the Slavic peoples of the Balkans have endured.

In 1959, Joachim Remak wrote Sarajevo: The Story of a Political Murder (Criterion, N. Y.) This book was supposed to tie up all the loose ends, and give the definitive account of the assassination and its consequences. Unfortunately, Remak simply followed all the German accounts of the assassination, which claimed that it had been set in motion by a sinister Serbian conspiracy, headed by Colonel Dragutin Dimitrijevič ("Colonel Apis") of Serbian military intelligence. Remak goes so far as to call Dimitrijevič "the author of the Sarajevo murders".

Quite another perspective was presented to the world by the distinguished Yugoslav historian Vladimir Dedijer (The Road to Sarajevo, 1967) Dedijer had himself been in arms against an later Germanic empire in the Balkans, and was better able to understand Princip and his fellow-conspirators. Also, he had access to the Archduke's private papers, which had been furnished to him by Dr. Max Hohenberg, elder son of the murdered couple. Dedijer showed that the German accounts of the sinister Colonel Apis were based on the stories told them by a certain Bogicevič, a Serbian traitor who had gone over to the Germans. Dedijer showed that the plot was the contrivance of Princip and a few other young Bosnian nationalists, and that Apis probably knew no more than that these young hotheads were going to try yet another of the violent and futile demonstrations against Habsburg tyranny that had been going on for decades.

The British historian Gordon Brook-Shepherd has written the first biography in English of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand von Oesterreich-Este. (Archduke of Sarajevo; The Romance and Tragedy of Franz Ferdinand of Austria (Little Brown & Co., 1984) Brook-Shepherd uses all the usual sources, and two others which no previous historian seems to have plumbed. These are two elderly ladies with first-hand recollections of the Archduke and his wife, and of the decaying Empire in which they lived: the Dowager Empress Zita of Austria-Hungary (age 93), and Countess Sophie Nostitz (age 83).

LIFE IN POST-POLITICAL AMERICA

In GRAUSTARK #495, I reviewed a book which claimed that America is now in a "post-liberal" era. I took issue with the authors, and claimed that the present time is not "post-liberal" but "post-political". I claimed that:

"For all practical purposes, politics is over in this country. We have reached, under the leadership of Our President, a policy which cannot be changed. The political system is no longer able to produce people who are capable of changing it, since such people are frozen out or ejected as soon as they make it appear that they would like to chance the fundamentals upon which the American policy of world domination is based."

This is why the now closing Presidential campaign has many features which have never before appeared in such a campaign. The incumbents' assumption that the opposition has the nation's best interests at heart but is merely weak or wrong-headed about how to assure them, is no longer heard. Instead, support of Our President is made equivalent to loyalty to the Great Big United States of America. Next Tuesday's event will not be an election in the sense that the public will choose between two alternative men and policies to govern this nation for the next four years. It will instead be a National Affirmation of Our President's leadership. It may be compared, not with any election of the past, but with the ancient Germanic custom of acclaiming a king by raising him on the shields of his warriors.

This article will provide a running commentary on the campaign, based on reports in the press.

11 August: Today, Our President promised us that He would bomb the Soviet Union. This wish, obviously lies very close to His heart, because He voiced it while testing a microphone for His weekly address to us His people. His precise words were:

"My fellow Americans. I am pleased to tell you I just signed legislation which outlaws Russia forever. The bombing begins in five minutes."

A few malcontents have since argued that Our President was not serious, or lying. What will happen to them after His re-election we can easily guess. The things that Our President says are true. We know they are true, because they were said by Our President.

15 August: According to today's New York Times, Our President sometimes falls asleep at cabinet meetings. "These meetings are sometimes boring," Deputy Chief of Staff Deaver remarked, "and I doze off, too." And why shouldn't they? It is the job of members of the cabinet to keep their remarks interesting; Our President is under no obligation to stay awake when they aren't saying anything worth hearing.

16 August: According to the New York Daily News, Representative Jack Kemp (Rep., N. Y.) described "Russia as an unnatural state with a malignant, totalitarian ideology." While this language was not explicitly incorporated into the Republican National Platform, it is completely in line with Our President's belief that the Soviet Union is "the focus of evil in the modern world" (NAE)* This belief, that the Soviet Union is a temporary and transitory phenomenon, seems widely distributed in Our President's Administration. It should be observed that Representative Kemp is widely considered to be a likely Successor to Our President, should he choose not to run for re-election in 1988.

17 August: John Gorsuch Burford, formerly head of the Environmental Protection Agency, was named head of a truth squad to demolish Representative Ferraro's position

* "(NAE)" refers, in this article, to the speech that Our President made on 8 March 1983 before the National Association of Evangelicals. This speech, perhaps the most significant ever made by a U. S. President, describes His outlook on foreign policy and morality. A tape is available for \$4 from National Association of Evangelicals, Box 28, Wheaton, Ill. 60187.

during the campaign. This truth squad was set up by the National Conservative Political Action Committee, and will make commercials starring Burford and revealing (in NCPAC chairman Terry Dolan's words) "the sleaze factor" among the Democrats. I'll bet this will make Ferraro sorry she ever voted to cite Burford for contempt of Congress during the turmoil over whether Burford was making the EPA an agent of private industry!

19 August: On the eve of the national convention of America's Party (formerly called the "Republican Party") its platform-drafting committee put together a document which will certainly be one of the most important political documents of our century. By a vote of 106 to 15 the committee refused to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment. By comparable margins it opposed all attempts to increase taxes, attacked the Federal Reserve Board, supported school prayer, and opposed abortion under virtually all circumstances. Several moderate Republicans have expressed dismay over this stand (Steven V. Roberts, New York Times) but Dolan has already invited them to leave the Party, certain that this can only strengthen it. Meanwhile, Vice President Bush banned the press from his campaign plane, expressing the frequently stated view of Republican candidates that the press is their enemy and America's.

21 August: One of the most remarkable features of this campaign is the many people who have abandoned the Democratic Party to join America's Party. President Reagan Himself once used to be a Democrat. Philip Gramm, who served many years as a Democratic Representative from Texas, changed parties a couple of years ago and is now running for the Senate as a Republican. Representative Ireland of Florida has also just switched away from the Democrats. Representative Leath of Texas is certain to do the same; there can be no future for him in the Democratic Party now that he has said of Representative Ferraro: "No way on earth is this bitch qualified to be Vice President." (U. S. Press, 6 July 1984)

Lesser Americans are reaching the same conclusion. Today's Daily News interviews the former New York Giants star Roosevelt Grier, once Robert Kennedy's friend and bodyguard. Grier now warmly endorses Our President, mainly because he also believes that prayer should be organized in school. Presumably Grier now also feels less guilty about his failure to prevent Senator Kennedy's assassination.

This same week, other ex-Democrats let their support for Our President be known. Ambassador Kirkpatrick, though technically still a Democrat, gave a ringing pro-Reagan speech at the Republican National Convention. Other ex-Democrats now firmly enrolled in America's Party are Senator Strom Thurmond (S. C.), Representative Trent Lott (Miss.), and Governor William Clements (Tex.) While Mayor Edward I. Koch of New York City has not yet formally left the Democratic Party, he did accept the Republican nomination the last time he ran, and was much closer to Ronald Reagan than to Jimmy Carter during the 1980 campaign.

22 August: While repentant Democrats are being welcomed within the ranks of the Republican Party, liberal Republicans are being shown that they are no longer wanted. The Daily News reports that "last night, Ford was the target of a conservative-led 'party-out'". The former President was going to speak that night at the convention. So oil billionaire Nelson Bunker Hunt invited about 1300 delegates and alternates to a big barbecue at his ranch. "Organizers of the bash, the National Conservative Political Action Committee, let it be known the affair was timed to conflict with Ford's speech." Most people might not consider Gerald Ford's career as Representative, House Minority Leader, Vice President, and President to be markedly liberal. However, the new standards of conservative orthodoxy now dominant in the Republican Party have no room for him. People wishing to bring themselves into conformity with America's new mood should keep this in mind.

Meantime, the New York Post reported that New York City's three locally owned VHF TV channels far outdrew the networks, which are all broadcasting the convention. This is, actually, a good sign. It shows that (at least locally) the American people are less involved in political controversy, and therefore more ready to go along with their President's pronouncements. A general interest in politics is not really in America's best interest. We saw quite all of that sort of thing that we wanted, and more, in the sixties. If politics means the people - the ill-informed, changeable,

emotional general public - trying to enforce its mercenary and transitory will upon our nation's government. This is a total inversion of the natural state of affairs; in a properly organized society, people calmly and decorously do as their government tells them. The proportion of the "eligible" public which votes has fallen steadily over the past twenty years, a quiet recognition of this fact. If it continues to fall, our society will continue to become more stable and well-behaved.

23 August: In the Daily News, the perceptive columnist Lars-Erik Nelson looks over the Republican National Platform, the document on which American political life will henceforth be based, and tells us what it means for our future.

"This platform is likely to be the nation's legislative agenda for the next four years. Odds are that President Reagan is going to win a landslide this November, and the conservatives are going to interpret the victory as an overwhelming popular mandate to enact into law the most conservative party platform in history."

Chief item on this agenda is "a constitutional amendment that, in the intention of its drafters, would outlaw abortion even in cases of rape and incest." There will also be a constitutional amendment to restore school prayer, a categorical rejection of any tax increases, and a firm opposition to arms reduction. Nelson seems worried about "moderate" Republicans who will have "to cope for four years with the victory of a hugely popular President - who brings with him a legislative agenda whose radical goals they vehemently oppose." However, he seems to overlook the fact that such "moderate" opposition can simply be ignored by a President whose advisers can readily urge him to bypass Congress and impose these measures by decree. Already Representative James Schmitz (Rep., Calif.) has greeted our President's first term by saying that if President Reagan fails, our nation's only hope is a military dictatorship. And in 1982, the conservative columnist R. Emmett Tyrell Jr. urged that our President should override congressional opposition and call out the armed forces, dismiss Congress, and put his budget through by decree. (New York Post, 29 March 1982)

George Maksian in the Daily News continues to report low TV ratings for the convention. The three networks combined nationwide for 18.5% of the audience, compared with 21.2% for the first night of the Democrats' convention. By contrast, Channel 5 showed the Marx Brothers' A Night at the Opera and got 19% of the audience locally. Channel 9 took 15% with the film Khartoum, and even the slumping New York Yankees had 12% watching Channel 11.

26 August: President Reagan is understandably nettled about the tendency of some politicians to criticize him. In his weekly broadcast to his people, our President ordered the Democrats to "close their mouths forever about budget deficits." (Times)

Lars-Erik Nelson took time off, after the convention in Dallas, by visiting a shooting range where, for \$20, he rented a UZI submachine gun and try out for himself one of the guns used by James Huberty to kill 21 people in San Ysidro during the Democratic convention. Why not? "The Constitution and the Republican Party platform defend the citizen's right to keep and bear arms." Furthermore, "the GOP platform even wants to make it easier for me, a law-abiding citizen, to acquire an UZI than it was for Huberty." And "there is even a book on sale that tells you how to be a long-range assassin. That's protected by freedom of the press." (Daily News)

Your targets will be easy to identify, according to Representative Kemp (Times). Kemp has come out against quiche. "Told during a breakfast interview in Dallas last week that he'd just eaten some of the sissy stuff, he said manfully, 'I took one bite and I don't like it.' He was shocked, he said, by so 'elitist' a meal." The author of this report wasn't quite sure what "puts quiche beyond the political pale", but it seems clear that we are coming into a situation like that of England of the reign of William and Mary, when the wine you drank showed your politics. Whigs drank port because they'd negotiated the alliance with Portugal, while Tories drank French claret to show their support for the exiled Stuart dynasty, then hiding out in France. In our time, "casting aspersions on what is essentially a custard pie is now one of the most predictable of all political cliches."

The campaign against quiche-eaters makes sense when you realize that the solidarity of a people is increased when a clearly identified domestic enemy can be attacked. These internal enemies make the rest of us develop a greater sense of nationality, as we root out and destroy whatever group has been selected to concentrate our hostilities upon, and make us feel ourselves to be better Americans.

Thirty or forty years ago, Communists were selected as the group to be expelled from our national body with such obloquy. However, despite the vigor with which this campaign was carried on, there simply weren't enough Communists for the campaign to be effective. In the 1960s, Pacifists were similarly singled out, but after a few of them were shot dead in 1970, the rest shut up, shaved, and disappeared into the general population.

Now, apparently, the target will be liberals - usually also identified as quiche-eaters. Granted, liberals led the American war efforts against Korea and Vietnam. However, what they may or may not have done in the past is not at issue. There are enough of them to serve usefully as a target for this campaign which will solidify our own patriotism and nationalism. Secretary of the Interior James Watt, for example, has divided the country into "liberals and Americans". Jerry Falwell, who has told his followers that Our President will allow him to pick the next two Justices of the Supreme Court, says that a liberal cannot be a good Christian. In short, liberals are being read out of the Great Big United States of America - or, as Our President said at the Convention, "they've gone so far left, they've left America."

28 August: In the Times, Flora Lewis observes that "President Reagan told his party in Dallas that November would be decisive for half a century... 'We are here to shield our liberties, not just for now or for a few years, but forever,' he said."

Lewis also observes that "Jeane Kirkpatrick... suggests that difficulties in getting along with the world are self-inflicted by Americans who 'always blame America first.'" Clearly an end will be put to this sort of thing.

4 September: It appears that one of the principal themes of Our President's campaign will be to identify support of Himself with loyalty to the Great Big United States of America. Addressing the American Legion, he described and praised today's "New Patriotism". Among the evidences for this New Patriotism he cited the 1980 hockey victory over the Soviet team, and the new TV movie Call to Glory. As the Times pointed out on 29 August, this film was made with the cooperation of the War Department, unlike such carping, critical films as An Officer and a Gentleman, Private Benjamin, or M*A*S*H, or The Day After. ("The main objection from the Defense Department* was that the television movie did not make clear that the Soviet Union made the first nuclear strike.")

The press, whose loyalty to the Great Big United States of America was called into question during the wars with Vietnam and Grenada, was barred from both the Presidential and Vice Presidential entourages today. (Times) Larry Speakes, Our President's spokesman, didn't even give these newshounds a reason for this action - which will tend to drive home to them their inferiority and subservience. "A rope is always erected to divide the public from Mr. Reagan. At the Marine base, the rope was about 200 feet from Air Force One."

5 September: Anne Burford today said she had received a list from President Reagan during her tenure at the EPA, naming people whom the Chamber of Commerce wanted fired from that notoriously anti-capitalist agency. As Rita La Velle, an assistant of Ms. Burford at EPA, once said, business is this Administration's "primary constituency."

6 September: In the Post, Patrick J. Buchanan, a sometime speechwriter for President Nixon, observes that Senator Mondale "established himself as an implacable foe of new weapons," an action which Buchanan calls "unilateral disarmament". Furthermore, "George Bush suggests the reason the Soviets are not back at the negotiating

* - This editor rejects the flashy modernism "Defense Department" for the tried and true name "War Department". As for The Day After, the cowardly Pacifists who run the Soviet Union have pledged never to be the first to use nuclear weapons. Our own proud and warlike nation never has and never will commit itself to such a pusillanimous policy - as they will learn in Moscow when American nuclear rockets start to come down on them out of a clear sky with no warning whatsoever.

table is they are hoping, waiting, for Walter Mondale...After all, Mondale's pledges to halt the B-1, the MX, the testing of anti-satellite weapons and the Strategic Defense Initiative known as 'Star Wars' read like the wish list of Soviet arms negotiators."

Well, this proves it. The election of Walter Mondale to the Presidency would be against the national security of the Great Big United States of America. It therefore follows that support of Mondale, or of the political party that has had the insolence to set him up against Our President, is tantamount to treason. Buchanan quotes the distinguished Polish-American security analyst, in the August Commentary, as saying that "the idea itself of true accommodation with the Soviet Union is illusory."

If there can be no accommodation with the Soviet Union, then there must be war, eventually. How could it be spelled out clearer than this? And, if there is to be war, then the Great Big United States of America not only needs every weapon possible, but also has the right to indoctrinate its subjects so that they will accept this war as American and therefore as just, necessary, and victorious.

7 September: The Chamber of Commerce verified that in August 1981 it had sent to President Reagan a list of uncooperative government officials, not only at the EPA, but also at the Labor, Justice, and Energy Departments. The undesirables were identified as "Carter Administration holdovers that we think are unsympathetic to the objectives of this Administration's economic recovery programs."

In the Times, Hedrick Smith reports that the New Patriotism is proving a powerful tool of the President's re-election campaign. "The President, saying that the Republicans are 'America's Party', has linked his evocation of Old Glory to an aura of national optimism and a reassertion of American power and military strength". This has a logical inference; if the Republican Party is to be renamed "America's Party", then to what country do the Democrats belong? Patrick Buchanan has already answered that question. After all, if they're running a candidate against Our President, how loyal can they be?

Does this new feeling of national unity behind Our President include a unity of religious faith? In his speeches (except those before Jewish organizations) Our President is in the habit of calling this "a Christian country". Four years ago, he told the Moral Majority that "while you can't endorse me, I endorse you."

11 September: America's return to the traditional capitalist system under Our President was illustrated in today's Times by the case of Lowy Schults of Peoria. When business contracts, employees are laid off. When it expands, as it is now doing under the leadership of Our President, these employees are called back. Schultz was laid off from the Caterpillar Tractor Company in September 1982. In 1983 he lost his home, packed up, and moved to Phoenix. There, he and his wife found jobs.

In August of this year, Caterpillar recalled Schultz. He and his wife left Phoenix and drove back to Peoria, and Schultz was soon working for Caterpillar again.

However, if the economy contracts again, then in a capitalist society the worker is laid off again. This fact is unarguable except by Communists. And so, after six hours, Schultz was laid off again.

Schultz, incidentally, is a Republican, and plans to vote for President Reagan.

14 September: One of the ways in which we His loyal subjects can show our support for Our President is to hoot off the platform any malcontent so evilly motivated as to criticize Him. This pleasant task fell to the lot of the people of Tupelo, Mississippi, according to the Post. "Hundreds of students, many of whom came from a nearby Christian school, heckled him."

Another such malcontent is Billy Graham, once one of America's most respected clergyman, but thrown into the outer darkness by our loyal media once he came back from the Soviet Union and reported that freedom of religion exists there. Graham learned the hard way that one deviation from patriotism forever damns you. Nevertheless, he returned to the USSR, and there told the Estonian parliament that Our President "didn't mean" his promise of 11 August to bomb the Soviet Union. Well, Billy, Our President is perfectly capable

This is
O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflamm
O Optic
N Nerves

of saying what He means and meaning what He says. If you don't believe the President of the Great Big United States of America, what nation's leader do you believe? (New York Post; New York Times)

18 September: Of course, Walter Mondale isn't a Pacifist. His superb record of support for the war with Vietnam, when he was a member of Congress, is a guarantee of that. It is only that he is presently more useful as a target for patriotic sentiment, than he is as a supporter of the war effort. Therefore, Our President has made him such a target, in the interests of national unity.

The ex-Vice-President made this clear in a speech in Washington, according to the Times. If Nicaragua gives us any trouble, he suggests that he would as President "quarantine" that country. A "quarantine", or "blockade" as it is better known, is an act of war. Mondale also gave belated but welcome support to the 1983 American conquest of Grenada, saying that he is now persuaded that the American medical students at the unaccredited university there were in danger. He also supported the keeping of U. S. military advisers in El Salvador and Honduras.

20 September: Communist presidential candidate Gus Hall, probably the only presidential candidate older than President Reagan, issued one of a series of paid (by whom?) advertisements in various newspapers. This advertisement urges the defeat of President Reagan. Since it is inconceivable that Hall's candidacy could do this, he is in effect endorsing Walter Mondale, and demonstrating that Democrats and Communists are in effect united to eject Our President from office. He quotes several prominent leaders of America's Party, hoping to horrify his audience. What he is actually doing, is demonstrating the depth of the commitment of America's leadership towards its program. His examples are:

Senator Paul Laxalt (America's Party, Nev.): "As leaders under God, we cannot resign ourselves to idle neutrality."

Howard Philipps (Conservative Caucus): "We organize dissent and prove our ability to get revenge on people who go against us."

Platform of America's Party: "We applaud the liberation of Grenada...it is an example to the world."

21 September: The days when America's students dared to object to the policies of our government are long past. This Walter Mondale found at the University of Southern California, and Geraldine Ferraro at the University of Dallas, when both were howled down by hordes of pro-Reagan student demonstrators. (Newsday, New York Post) "One of the USC demonstrators, Ellis Reyes, told the Los Angeles Times that local Reagan campaign officials had coached the group." The Texans, more succinctly, told Ferraro, "Go back to the kitchen." It is intolerable that anyone should be allowed to stand up boldly in public and say things that are contrary to the policies of the President, Commander-in-Chief, and Supreme War Leader of our imperial nation. This is, after all, not one of those decadent European countries like England or Poland, where anyone no matter how poorly informed and evilly motivated may attack the national leader. This is the Great Big United States of America, imperial master of this planet.

Meanwhile, in the Post, Buchanan again observes that several newspapers, particularly the Times, have been reporting the Mondale-Ferraro campaign in a favorable light. This is blatantly contradictory to our national interest.

2 October: The millionaire Meshulam Riklis, who is probably most famous as the husband of the actress Pia Zadora, took a huge ad in the Times today in support of Our President's campaign. His theme is "Why is the Soviet so anxious to have Reagan out?", and points up the fact that the opposition to Our Leader is both Communist and Democratic. His advertisement concludes: "Will Chernenko be allowed to dictate our choice for the Presidency?!" Millions of Americans agree with him.

5 October: The next target for American armed might was identified by Curtin Winsor Jr., U. S. Ambassador to Costa Rica. (Times) He told 40 Republicans in Charlottesville, W. V., that "Nicaragua is a country that's been taken over by bandits...Nicaragua has become just like an infected piece of meat, attracting these insects from all over." Ambassador Winsor, a member of Our President's 1980 transition team, has clearly identified the target upon which American wrath will fall, once the huge endorsement of Our President's landslide re-election has been accomplished.

11 October: The Republican Party has only recently announced the change of its name to "America's Party", and so its candidates will appear on the ballot this year under the old name. One of these candidates is Joseph DiGuardi, running for a seat in the House of Representatives from a well-to-do suburban district in the lower Hudson Valley. Discussing the hot topic of abortion, he said on 23 September to a candidates' forum that "You've got to look at the facts. The facts are that minority groups in this country enjoy having children. It's their only joy, it's their only hope, it gets them another check. They're not going to have the abortion."

It has been many years since any American politician expressed his feelings so frankly. And this frankness will throw dismay into the hearts of the opposition. They know that only a party supremely confident of victory would place its policies before the public in this fashion. (New York Daily News)

Eight days later, DiGuardi repeated this attitude. (Daily News, 19 October) He said that minorities wait for public assistance checks "like Pavlov's dogs."

15 October: Today's Daily News treated as a major story the report about the manual which the Central Intelligence Agency has prepared for use by the Somocista guerrilleros who are working in the U. S. interest to overthrow the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. The manual's instructions on assassination and sabotage are no great new departure from U. S. policy; they are the same sort of thing that U. S. forces were doing during the war with Vietnam. It should be taken for granted by now that anyone who opposes the military policies of the Great Big United States of America is risking death - whether in an Asian or Central American jungle, or on the campus of Kent State University.

16 October: Steven V. Roberts explains in today's Times why young people are so strongly in support of Our President. "For many of these new voters, the only American military action they remember is Grenada, a successful adventure that posed no threat to their own security. They have never experienced the military draft, and the Vietnam era is something they hear about in history class." They have a generally upbeat feeling about America, and can thus relate easily to Our President's optimism, to his "shining city on a hill". A 19-year-old sales clerk in Florida looks forward to a post-political America when she says: "Allegiance to a political party? None whatsoever! I think it is coming to the point where we don't need them."

In the same newspaper, Patrick Fenton reports about a low-income largely Irish neighborhood in Brooklyn. "Most of them earn their living seeing the dark side of New York City, where either you act tough or you could get killed. When they hear Democratic candidates talk of disarmament and defense cuts, it only gives them one more reason to vote Republican." When President Reagan fulfills His campaign promise, and sends the nuclear missiles down on the Soviet Union, people like this will stand up and cheer. (And the rest of the public will, too, if they know what's good for them.)

17 October: Walter Mondale said that U. S. Marines died in shame in Lebanon. Vice President Bush said so, and that settles it, no matter what quibbles Mondale may make about not actually having used the word "Shame." From now on, if we want to know what anybody said, we go to Our Leaders and find out. (Post) The Vice President has nothing to apologize for. Next, we will probably hear Mondale denying that the idea of a nuclear freeze originated with Leonid Brezhnev. President Reagan said so, on 10 December 1982, quoting a Brezhnev speech of 21 February 1981. We have no time to waste on people of dubious loyalty who claim that the freeze was first suggested by a Republican Senator in 1979.

18 October: The Democratic Candidate for the Senate in Massachusetts is John Kerry, founder of Vietnam Veterans against the War and therefore an advocate of the essentially Communistic notion that peace is preferable to war. He is opposed by Ray Shamie, a stalwart conservative who is running on the America's Party ticket and who has ties with the John Birch Society. John McManus, a Bircher spokesman whose speeches Shamie has sponsored, called Kerry a Communist sympathizer. This will be increasingly the tone of America's Party, as long as the Democrats persist in their

THE REIGN OF SENILIO THE GREAT - XXVI

"I'll have them read me strange philosophy
And tell the secrets of all foreign kings;
I'll have them wall all Germany with brass."

- Christopher Marlowe, Doctor Faustus, 1589

"I have framed out a monstrous head of brass,
That, by the enchanting forces of the devil,
Shall tell out strange and uncouth aphorisms,
And girt fair England with a wall of brass."

- Robert Greene, Friar Bacon and Friar
Bungay, 1592

During his reign over the Temporary Roman Empire, the Emperor Senilio the Great placed increasing reliance on the spells of one of the most notorious nigromancers of the middle ages, Caspar Magus. To this day, controversy abounds concerning this wizard. Some scholars of the de Camps' school of debunkers regard him as a master swindler and charlatan, comparable with John Dee, Cagliostro, and Orin Roberts. Others believe that he really possessed magical powers, and during the "Hippie" era some of his works were reprinted, with claims that the spells of Caspar Magus could solve the energy crisis, force President Nixon to resign, and raise the Pentagon as high as the lunar epicycle.

Caspar Magus claimed to be descended from Caspar, eldest of the Three Wise Men, though he did not make this claim in the Temporary Roman Empire, was Christianity was illegal there (and still is). He came to the attention of Senilio the Great shortly after that monarch acceded to the Purple in 1381 at the age of 97. Caspar Magus claimed that his spells could annihilate the enemies of the Temporary Roman Empire while leaving unharmed all their material goods, possessions, and buildings. Senilio the Great immediately took Caspar Magus into his service, built him a five-sided tower whose very shape was supposed to be imbued with magical properties, and allowed him to make huge drafts on the Imperial Treasury in support of his magical researches.

In the fourth year of this Emperor's reign, Caspar Magus announced that he had perfected a spell to make the Temporary Roman Empire invulnerable. He built a brass head, which spoke words that would cause the whole Empire to be surrounded by a wall of brass. This wall of brass would protect the Temporary Roman Empire against all missiles, from the balls of the newly invented blunderbuss through arrows, Chinese war-rockets, caltrops, and even horse-turds, which were employed in some of the border clashes of this backward region of the Balkans.

Senilio the Great enthusiastically supported this plan to build a wall of brass around his Empire. "Once this wall is built," he told the Senate, "we will be able to do anything we like to our enemies, and they will be unable to retaliate against us. We can first wrest the border district of El Slammador away from the Catalan mercenaries who now hold it, and from the Kingdom of Pundschruck which supports them. Next, we will conquer Pundschruck itself, since they cannot penetrate our defenses. Next we shall conquer the other nations of The Four And A Half Kingdoms. Finally, we shall overrun those impudent modern barbarian states which have had the effrontery to establish themselves on what in reality is the sacred soil of the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire shall be restored as it was in the days of our glorious ancestor, Nero I, who took refuge here after causing a slave to die in his stead and founded this, the only true Roman Empire."

The unveiling of the brass head took place in 1384, after the suppression of a brief insurrection led by Senator Vallunius, who had protested against spending so many denarii on this plan. Before a vast audience, Caspar Magus opened the veil that had hidden the brass head from the multitude, and proclaimed, "O Senilio Augustus, Senate and People of (Temporary) Rome! Harken to the words of the brass head, which shall instruct us in how to build a wall of brass about our Empire and make us invulnerable to enemy attack!"

As the hushed crowd listened, the brass head began to speak. In what the inhabitants of the Temporary Roman Empire firmly believe to be classically pure Latin, it slowly said: "Date mihi pecuniam!" ("Give me money!")

Senilio the Great wheezed with delight, and ordered the husky members of the Praetorian Guard to come forward with their burdens. Guardsman after guardsman emptied huge sacks of golden aurei into the brass head's mouth. When the last had emptied his sack, the Emperor waited briefly, took a three-hour nap, and then asked Caspar Magus, "Where's the wall?"

The brass head replied, "Give me money!" Caspar Magus explained that, though the wall would insure total invulnerability for the Temporary Roman Empire, building it would take even greater amounts of precious metals. After a brief conference with Copius, Minister of the Treasury, Caspar Magus informed Senilio the Great that the spell of the brass wall would not be complete until there had been poured into the brass head, and ultimately into the five-sided tower of Caspar Magus, all the gold, jewels, silver, copper, and tin of the Temporary Roman Empire, as well as a peculiar glowing ore that was sometimes found in the local mines, held by the miners to be sacred to the god Uranus.

Senilio the Great immediately dissolved the assembly, and summoned the Senate to a special session, for the purpose of establishing a new taxation policy for the Temporary Roman Empire.

BOOK REVIEWS (continued from p. 12)

Empress Zita is the widow of Kaiser Karl I, last Austro-Hungarian Emperor and nephew of Franz Ferdinand; Brook-Shepherd has already written his autobiography. (The Last Habsburg, 1968) Countess Nostitz is the eldest and sole surviving child of Franz Ferdinand and Sophie Chotek von Chotkowa und Wognin, whom the Archduke could not marry with full formalities because she had been born a mere countess. (Brook-Shepherd observes that the difference in rank between Franz Ferdinand and Sophie was precisely the same as the difference in rank between Charles, Prince of Wales, and Lady Diana Spencer, who were married with full formalities amid the enthusiasm of their kingdom and the world. And that is why Great Britain is still a popular and democratic monarchy, while the Austro-Hungarian Empire fell 66 years ago to the general rejoicing of its peoples.)

Brook-Shepherd spends a great deal of time on the courtship of this couple, and examines and demolishes some of the myths that have grown up about it. This is almost the only circumstance in his life in which one gets some sympathy for Franz Ferdinand. He seems to have been a loving and devoted husband and father, and Brook-Shepherd does his best to make us forget the autocratic political program to which he was committed, the wars against Serbia and Italy which he anticipated, and his plans for an alliance with the Russian Empire to preserve both monarchies against nationalist and social revolutions. Yet he presents, for the first time in English (although abridged) the plan which Franz Ferdinand was going to put into effect by decree as soon as he succeeded to the throne. The manifesto would ignore the autonomy that Hungary had gained within the Austro-Hungarian union, and planned to use the non-Hungarian majority of the Kingdom of Hungary as the weapon by which that proud Hungarian magnates were to be humbled before the Austrian throne. This high-handed approach would have, beyond the slightest possible doubt, produced a Hungarian revolt against Austria, and simultaneously a Slavic and Rumanian revolt against the Hungarian ruling gentry. The Empire, which had just managed to hold together under the old Emperor Franz Josef, would have dissolved in civil and foreign war - as it actually did in 1918.

Numerous writers (including Adolf Hitler in Mein Kampf) have seen Franz Ferdinand as a friend of the Slavs, who would have made them equal partners with the Germans, Austrians and the Hungarians in the monarchy. But Franz Ferdinand was as opposed to their claims as he was to the Hungarians'. As Dedijer points out, he believed in the perpetual dominance of the German-speaking, Catholic element of the empire, over all other groups. Brook-Shepherd makes much of the fact that the Archduke's own wife was a Slav. However, while the title of Chotek was Bohemian, Dedijer observes that Duchess Sophie was completely German culturally, and spoke it as her native language.

At this point, we should abandon the load word "assassination" which comes into this topic. A more appropriate word would be "tyrannicide". Of all the authors who have looked into the life of the Archduke, and of his death, only Dedijer has discussed the ancient doctrine of tyrannicide, and studied the influence that it has had over the centuries on European and world political thinking. The peoples of the Balkans had suffered for centuries under various brands of tyranny - Byzantine, Italian, Hungarian, Turkish, and German. This had often been accompanied by religious persecution, which is even harder to bear than imperialism. Since World War I we have seen and rejoiced in the assassinations of Reinhardt Heydrich, Benito Mussolini, and Henrik Verwoerd, so we may have a better understanding of tyrannicide than did Franz Ferdinand's contemporaries.

Yes, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand was a devoted husband and father. So was King Charles I of England, yet his death sentence described him with perfect accuracy as "a tyrant, traitor, murderer, and public enemy". It was a pity, as Princip himself realized, that his purely fortuitous opportunity in an otherwise bungled plot caused him to kill Duchess Sophie as well as the Archduke. Yet when the wife of a prominent Mafioso sets off the bomb that has been attached to the starter of her husband's car, we find it possible to control our grief - she did, after all, benefit from her husband's status and did nothing to control his lawless activities. The crowned and coronetted thugs who ran that ramshackle empire were on the same level as Mafiosi, and the imperial trappings should not blind us to that fact.

If the Sarajevo tyrannicide is to be condemned, then we are morally obligated to kiss every ass that is presented to us in a framework of bayonets.

LIFE IN POST-POLITICAL AMERICA (continued from p. 19)

running of opposition candidates.

Meanwhile, the staunchly Republican New York Post shows the extent to which America's Party is prepared to go to crush the opposition. Its reporters have found that in 1944 her parents were arrested for running a numbers racket in Newburgh, New York. The indictment was abandoned after the death of Dominick Ferraro - a death which the Post heavily hints was not natural. The Post devoted three pages to this story, and followed it up on the next day with another long story.

19 October: The defeat of Geraldine Ferraro's Vice Presidential candidacy, combined with the rigorous opposition of America's Party towards the Equal Rights Amendment, indicates a return towards traditional roles of women in American society. This was made clear by Our President's economics adviser, William A. Niskanen, when he said "that the issue of comparable pay for comparable work was a medieval concept whose time has passed." It is not altogether clear what Niskanen means, since there was certainly nothing like Women's Liberation in the Middle Ages. But what is clear is that among the many policies which will be endorsed by Our President's landslide reelection will be the inferior status of women in the economy.

And another Times story indicated that opposition to Our Presidents' foreign and military policies can be dangerous here as well as overseas. Last Saturday, Professor Edward Lee Cooperman, of the department of physics of California State University at Fullerton, was shot dead by a pro-American Vietnamese emigré, Minh Van Lam. Professor Cooperman had, by visiting Hanoi, rejected Our President's stern and hostile policy towards the insolent government that has tried to wrest Vietnam away from American control. Combined with the recent release of the C. I. A.'s instructions to the pro-American guerrilleros of Nicaragua, this should persuade people that opposition to the U. S. war effort is physically unsafe and therefore morally wrong.

20 October: The Hanoi government, now temporarily in control of what was, and again will be, the U. S. colony of Vietnam, claims that the C. I. A. was behind Professor Cooperman's murder and those of other opponents of America's policy towards Vietnam. Also in the Times, an editorial commented on the C. I. A. manual, apparently in the belief that members of the staff of that newspaper are bulletproof. But this assassination manual is fully in accord with policies which the Great Big United States