

RICHARD E. GEIS
RICHARD E. GEIS
RICHARD E. GEIS
RICHARD E. GEIS

PERSONAL JOURNAL #3

7-17-78 Our president is flying home from that Sunday-Monday economic summit, and from the communiques issued it seems the heads of state have agreed to slow inflation, promote real growth, work on exchange rates, correct balance of payments problems... They are also for motherhood, democracy and apple pie.

Funny...didn't they agree to do all those things last year? And the year before that? And the year before....?

7-19-78 Today I am 51 years old.
Ridiculous!

The stock market has been gyrating lately—the downward force of higher interest rates and desultory economic news is countered at least temporarily by hopes that congress will lower the capital gains tax and Carter won't veto it.

Long-term, depending on how you read the need for borrowed money in the next six months, we face either a leveling off of interest rates and a slow sinking into a "slowdown" in 1979, or we face an interest rate crunch with the federal govt. having to borrow 35 billion and everybody else wanting to borrow...and a sharp recession soon after. This fall and winter will be interesting to observe; 1979 will be fascinating as the tax revolt runs headlong into a recession (and there are those who will blame the recession on the tax revolt).

#The auto dealers are now running ads threatening their potential buyers with higher prices next year, along with lower mileage and smaller engines...to hype sales now. An interesting form of suicide. I think the current car/truck sales level (high) will continue until the introduction of the 1979 models and 1979 prices.

#Contrary to the public impression, the Federal Reserve has NOT been tightening money lately. They've increased the

money base at a 14% rate, which simply means next year inflation will continue to be a "disease" no one in government can cure or even seem to understand. (They don't want to understand, of course.)

What the Carter administration and the Federal Reserve know is that if they do restrict the money machine they will force interest rates to unheard of levels and cause a subsequent crash.

They'd rather have 10% inflation and blame it on somebody else. Trouble is, inflation at 10% is itself a terrible warping factor in the economy and has led and will lead to even more severe consequences as people act to compensate for it.

Wanna bet we'll have Wage & Price controls in 1979? Wanna bet we won't? As a 'temprary' measure, of course....

CONVOY, a movie featuring Kris Kristoferson and Ali McGraw and Ernest Borgnine. This one is another in the delicious anti-cop, anti-authority, anti-politician movies combined with the gleeful destruction of cop cars that has been such a successful formula for the last year or so. The truckers get their chance this time in a loose adaptation for movies of the hit single, CONVOY.

Borgnine is a mean, trucker-hating cop, and Kristoferson is the hero independent trucker who leads a growing, spontaneous convoy of truckers through the southwest USA. CB talk is the language and trucker solidarity and cooperation is the myth.

Ali McGraw, age 39, is stone-faced and essentially decorative. I couldn't understand what Kris saw in her; his loving waitress girl friend was a better woman.

STINGRAY, featuring lots and lots of car chases and a set of insane and psychopathic killers who shoot up everything in sight, including themselves, is a dumb movie with dumb, gratuitous violence. It should not have been made. Sherry Jackson (remember her as a kid as Danny Thomas's daughter in MAKE ROOM FOR DADDY?) is wasted as the psycho leader of a gang of drug dealers who have killed some feds and are in pursuit of the Stingray in which they stashed their heroin.

James Mitchum (Robert's son) isn't a good actor. The rest of the cast is professional but trapped in a lousy movie. (Come to think of it, Sherry Jackson can't act either, but she is lovely.)

#Item for science fiction writers: The National Observatory in Washington, D.C. have discovered that Pluto has a moon.

More on the emerging emotional stability of gays: A San Francisco study of 979 bay area homosexuals shows that most are atable, happy and well adjusted. Only a small percentage were "typical" gays with severe emotional and behavior problems.

MY MAGNUM OPUS, "THE JOY OF TAXES"...
LISTED AS FICTION!



We used to be told that the reason the Japanese have a smaller heart-attack rate than Americans is because they eat more fish and vegetables. We eat too much fat/sugar junk.

Now it seems the Japanese have a higher rate of stomach cancer than we, according to John H. Weisburger of the American Health Foundation. He thinks (based on technical experiments) that unless nitrites found in fish are neutralized by equivalent amounts of vitamin C, stomach cancer is increasingly possible. Since the trend for a generation in America has been towards salads, we are getting more vitamin C than before in lettuce, tomatoes, etc.

Increasingly, vitamin C is being confirmed as a 'good health' vitamin, not to be taken lightly.

Similarly, new studies have confirmed the value of fiber in the diet. It has recently been reported that the Finns have a lower incidence of colon cancer than we because (even though they eat as much dietary fat as we) because of their habitual eating of large amounts of high fiber rye bread with their meals.

Let's make this a 'cancer section': Now for the bad news....

Alcohol and cigarettes, when used together, may act together to create several forms of cancer. So sayeth David Schottenfield, chief of epidemiology and preventive medicine at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. He estimated that three-quarters of all cancer deaths from cancers of the mouth, pharynx, larynx and esophagus are linked with the cigarette-alcohol combination. Also, smoking by itself is responsible for 85% of lung cancer mortality and for 39% of bladder cancer deaths.

So...if you must smoke and drink, at least make sure you chomp on vitamin C tablets (the kind made from rose hips and citrus bioflavonoids are really delicious). In fact, a good rule-of-thumb would be one 100 mg. C tablet for every cigaret and drink. Most nutrition zealots would recommend 200-300 mg. of C for each "sin". Get thousands of the lowest dosage tablets and eat 'em like peanuts.

7-24-78 One thing I admire about Prime Minister Begin of Israel is his bluntness. And the fact that he heads a Capitalist-oriented political party which is undoing the socialist apparatus installed by the opposition labor party so long in control of the Israeli government.

In fact, I think Begin's economic policies in Israel are at the heart of the opposition to his west bank-Gaza Sinai and USA policies.

Sadat has been trying to pressure Begin and his party into concessions by meeting separately with an opposition clique in Begin's party, and with the leader of the labor party.

And just last week there was a planting and surfacing of stories that Begin wasn't rational—kind of crazy—unstable due to the drugs he takes to prevent heart attacks. All this widely reported in the U.S. media to influence the American jews.

Sadat is a socialist. He can't get anything for nothing from Begin, so he wants to try a fellow-socialist regime again. But I think once the labor party gets back in he will find the negotiations just as tough, if not moreso.

We drove to Tillamook on the Oregon coast yesterday, and the most impressive things were the great scenery and "seeing" the trees and mountains and ocean in terms of color and art technique: how do you paint fog creeping through treetops? How do you capture the creamy sweep of a wave? More and more I faunch to get into that sort of thing and forget about writing and publishing SFR and the novels. THIS I like, this REG is enough for me to satisfy my opinion/publishing needs. But SFR is what makes enough money to pay the grocer and the utilities and taxes and medical bills.

Of course, The Coming Depression may force me into retirement in any case. I am of mixed emotions about The Collapse: It would hurt/kill SFR and wipe out most sf publishing...but I would be proved a true seer of the basic reality. Ah well, I'm an old fan, and tired.

Time to go get the mail.

7-25-78 The drug-use flap at the White House, with the resignation of Carter's 'drug policy adviser', Peter G. Bourne, and Carter's stern warning to his 351 mem-

ber staff (351!? I thought he was going to cut down on bloated staffs of this type?) to obey the drug laws or seek employment elsewhere...is hilarious. I almost feel sorry for Jimmy.

Dr. Bourne says there was/is a 'high incidence' of marijuana use and 'occasional' use of cocaine. Prompting Rosalynn Carter to say everybody knows there isn't a drug problem in the White House but if there is everybody now will stop doing drugs for fear of getting caught, and besides "It's ridiculous to go around the White House asking people, do you smoke marijuana, do you smoke marijuana?"

The cream of the jest is good ol' boy Jody Powell, the presidential press secretary, saying the hooroar over drug use in the White House is a witch hunt. Jody refused to say if he ever used pot or other drugs.

And Sen. Howard Baker, a Republican presidential hopeful, maliciously suggested that the Justice Department, headed by Carter crony Bell, investigate the drug scene in the White House.

Ahh...poor Jimmy. Betrayed left and right. First Bert Lance, and now this! One might conclude that he is a bad judge of character and that he's kept so ignorant of reality everywhere that he is doomed to a continuing series of embarrassments and "betrayals". The hardening image in the American mind is that Jimmy Carter is a nice, well-meaning guy who isn't suited for the presidency: too afraid to take a stand, too stubborn and too ignorant of the power mechanisms of congress. He does what his Trilateralist/Rockefeller cabinet appointees suggest and recommend, but beyond that, in areas where he has control and choices, he screws up all the time.

Yes, he'll be dumped.

7-26-78 It is now announced that Energy Secretary Schlesinger will visit China "soon" to talk about exploiting China's vast offshore oil reserves.

The "oil connection" is going ahead full steam (if you'll pardon the metaphor) and it would appear that the previous visits to China by David Rockefeller and his administration agents (Vance and Brzezinski) has paid off. It is now reported in the WALL STREET JOURNAL that agents from Pennzoil have been to China

and agents from Exxon, Phillips and Union Oil are due before September. Japan is in the running, too, with increased trade and friendship and oil pacts with China.

The price the U.S. will pay for this access to China oil is probably high: return of Taiwan to China at a politically opportune time in the guise of guarantees of local autonomy for the Taiwanese and for the heavy multinational investments in that island. And also a promise to make huge US govt. loans and big bank loans. You can expect Carter to go to China, too, in 1979 or 1980—probably 1980 as he tries to bolster his image as President as he seeks a second term.

Liberty is taking a body blow in New Jersey as a NY TIMES reporter is held in contempt of court for refusing to give his notes concerning an in-process murder trial.

The court is forced to try to force the giving over of the investigative notes because of the "discovery" rules in effect which allow the defense to know of all evidence available to the prosecution.

The courts lately have been extending this to include the material in possession of reporters and newspapers when they get into major cases and uncover facts and information which had been "missed" or ignored by law enforcement agencies.

What we have here is a fishing expedition by the defense (they have nothing to lose) enforced by the courts which if allowed to stand as precedent will virtually eliminate all investigative reporting (Watergate, Koreagate, re-opened murder cases, fraud and misuse of power, etc.) in the future, because criminals, disgruntled employees, and etc. will no longer give tips to reporters and newspapers if it is likely that somewhere down the line their names and/or identities will be given to either a judge or the defense attorney. It has been said that the mafia has certain judges, legislators, etc. in their pocket. You can bet there will be damned few informers and tips to reporters and newspapers in organized crime stories, or even government lawbreaking stories if retribution on the source is likely.

(Who needs harassment by the cops, the state police, the FBI, the CIA, the IRS because of a good citizen tip to a reporter?)

In their zeal to assure a fair trial, the courts are on the verge of giving the State a powerful weapon to inhibit revelations of its misbehavior. Another closing of the open society. Another step toward totalitarianism for this country.

Don't forget that there is a certain self-interest for the courts in this: judges are part of the State. If investigating judges and the courts becomes next to impossible for reporters and newspapers, there will be more miscarriages of justice and a lot more judges on the take.

This case will go to the Supreme Court.

7-29-78 The lead headline (top right) on the OREGONIAN front page today: Gold price surges upward past historic \$200 barrier. Then just below: Buying power falls, prices go up again.

When such make the front page, the economy is in trouble; when the public is told it is losing ground—devaluation of the currency is ahead of wage and profit increases—and when the public can see that the only way to protect its money's purchasing power is to buy gold....then you have a crisis forming if not in fact formed. There is a great inertia to overcome, of course, but gradually more and more people will overcome habit and fear and trust-in-government, and will one way or another get out of dollars.

They'll spend it, primarily: buy a house, buy a new car, buy new furniture, buy, buy, buy...

When the average person "gets wise" to the inflation game by the government, the game is about over. The people will demand inflation-adjusted tax rates, inflation-adjusted interest rates, and ever more inflation-adjusted wage rates. And the real-money advantage to the government (ripping off savings values and tax revenues) will stop. But there is inertia in government, too, and the State will for a while desperately resist inflation-adjustments and continue deficits and inflation at ever higher

rates in order to "stay ahead" and keep the system going (the only system they know).

They'll say, "We know what we're doing. But at the start of this year the administration predicted that inflation would be just over 6%, while the Agriculture Dept. forecast food price increases between 4 and 6%. NOW the govt. says inflation for the year will be 7.2% and food prices will rise at 10%.

Three months after that first forecast inflation hit the 10%+ rate and hasn't decreased.

What do I conclude about the government people: they are either incompetent or liars. All the way up to the top.

Yet these people will soon begin talking about wage-price controls to cope with inflation, which will be blamed on "irresponsible" increases in wages and prices.

They will NOT talk about irresponsible deficits or irresponsible increases in the money supply for which they alone are responsible and which is the ONLY real, basic cause of inflation.

Federal Reserve Board Chairman G. William Miller is quoted as saying the nation is headed for a "serious recession" if inflation is not brought under control soon.

... Sure. That's why he and the Federal Reserve Board haven't had the guts to control the surging money supply the last year or so. The administration is between a rock and a hot place: if they rein in the money supply interest rates will skyrocket and a recession will set in. If they don't actually cut the expansionary and inflationary rise in the money base (but make noises and tiny nibbles) they will continue to be plagued by very high rates of inflation and social and economic crisis of a different kind and assure an even greater collapse a few years down the line.

Gutless, they have to date opted for putting off the evil day by talking anti-inflation and keeping the inflation engine going. They fear the heavy unemployment and bankruptcies that will follow a collapse of the debt/credit/inflation bubble.

But Europe and the Japanese are making moves to isolate themselves from the rip-offs they've suffered in the past from U.S. dollar dirty tricks and de-

valuations.

In short, the ruling circles in this country are running out of time and gimmicks.

#The true, dedicated Statists never give up, though. They promise (by implication) something for nothing—a free lunch. Like Sen. Edward Kennedy and his beloved National Health Insurance plan. He's been developing his plan for ten years, and it is patterned after the plans in use in Sweden and England. And, of course, it will be mandatory. No freedom of choice allowed, you pay for it even if you don't want it and don't use it...so that somebody else who is too poor to pay a full amount (or any amount) and who is too dumb or careless to take care of himself can have the best of care.

I'm bitter. I'm sarcastic. I know that if the Statists get their way, ultimately (in their quest for "equality") they'll pass a law making it mandatory for a person with two healthy kidneys to give one to an "unfortunate" who needs one. And then there's lungs... eyes...

I'm not opposed to anything people want to do or try. I do oppose their wanting other people to pay the bill... forcing other people to pay the bill... forcing other people to do anything others don't want to do.

A compulsory National Health Insurance, combined with the compulsory Social Security system now in effect would be the second major plank in the Statist platform for slavery of the American people to the State—to the benevolent dictators who would run the State. Ahh, power-over-people: the sweetest power there is.

The third major plank in the structure is a compulsory employment law. Under that plan they will tell you what to do and where to do it and they will claim that right because the State is guaranteeing you an income and medical care—all "free"—so it's only right that you be asked (forced!) to contribute your share to society where society needs you, according to your abilities (as determined by State schools).

We'll see how this all progresses in the coming collapse when unemployment

reaches staggering percentages and the State must "step in" to make the system work again....

At present the only way to beat the system is to have an untaxable income, or a huge income.

#Harry Browne (HOW TO BE FREE IN AN UN-FREE WORLD) has shifted from expecting runaway inflation in the U.S. to a man who is forecasting deflation soon. That would be in line with the theory of contrary opinion—when everyone expects this, expect THAT to happen. When everyone buys stocks and expects them to go up and up—get out! When everyone buys real estate and expects land values to keep on escalating—get out! When everyone thinks inflation is sure to continue at ever-increasing rates and adjusts to take advantage of it or to compensate for it—act on the contrary assumption!

So—maybe—it might be good "contrary" sense to save money and not buy a house....

A local non-profit, subsidized, "public interest" magazine called CASCADE, published by the Cascadian Regional Library, has its July 1978 issue dedicated to the energy-saving future urban house—solar powered—with all kinds of ecology added, primarily waste recycling: cycling human waste into composts and such, plus gardens, a pond for growing eatable fish, and specially designed pens for growing chickens and rabbits for protein.

I suppose you could, today, grow fish for food if you knew how and the costs were favorable, but every city of any size has a law against growing or keeping "livestock" in the city limits.

I'd like to try chickens for eggs, but I couldn't kill one. Even more impossible would be killing a cute, furry, cuddly rabbit!

Besides—eggs at 48¢ a dozen are still available once in a while, and they keep in a refrigerator for a long time.

Zounds, how I'd love to retire to a life of painting and drawing, gardening, and REG. Anybody want to buy SFR? Only \$15,000. (which includes thousands of copies of back issues).... I know, I know...it wouldn't be the same zine

without me. Might be better.

Sigh. Pay me no mind.

8-1-78 The "script" being enacted by the postal unions; and the government and the postal service has a familiar sound; I am reminded of the coal strike. The unions' bargaining council okayed a contract, and the union members rejected it.

The union members object to the 19% wage increase over three years. I don't blame them. The government is presiding over 11% per year inflation now, and it probably won't subside very much in 1979. Their 3-year increase could be (and probably will be) wiped out in two years, leaving them in the hole the third year.

We may have a nationwide strike in a few weeks.

WHY DON'T THE GODDAMNED BUGS EVER EAT THE GODDAMNED WEEDS??

I am now beginning to suspect that the Carter concern over the Dissidents' trials in Russia is a cover for what his bosses want done: punish Russia by withholding vital computer and oil and gas exploration equipment.

Remember when I noted that David Rockefeller had said the U.S. should tie our technological sales and aid to Russian behavior in Africa and elsewhere? That has now been done.

Portland General Electric Co. has asked for a "temporary" rate increase (average \$5. per month per average household) because it is losing millions of dollars per month because its Trojan nuclear power plant is shut down by order of the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission because (deep breath) the steel and concrete walls of the Trojan control building did not meet earthquake resistance specifications.

Trojan has been shut down since March 17. a "prehearing" Commission conference is set for Aug. 14th. PGE wants to be allowed to run the plant while the walls of the control building are being reinforced.

In the meanwhile the local anti-nuclear power groups plan another on-site confrontation/demonstration at Trojan.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is

really doing a great job: at this rate it will soon have regulated nuclear power into bankruptcy and oblivion... by design.

Friends send me clippings....

Like the one from England's DAILY MIRROR which tells of the visit of the USS NIMITZ to the port city of Wilhelmshaven, West Germany. The giant aircraft carrier has a crew of five thousand or so, and they get horny. Soon after... the sailors came ashore a queue of nearly 1,000 sailors stretched for a quarter of a mile from the town's one brothel, the Eros Club. Seven girls were on duty....

But good news: fresh pussy was on the way from Hamburg's red light district.

Anyone see the above story in an American newspaper?

And, also from the DAILY MIRROR, a story of a 40-year-old man, a truck driver, who has been living in his car for five years.

This sort of alternate life-style fascinates me. I recently wrote a column about the prospect of a million or more Americans deciding—in the coming depression—that it made more sense to let their mortgaged-to-the-hilt houses go and instead live in their campers or travel trailers and become a kind of highly mobile gypsy work force.

It could be done now. In fact, a lot of fairly well-to-do retired couples are on the road permanently in this country, now, sightseeing and traveling as a way of life, with no permanent address.

Personal: For the past week I've noticed that my thigh hip joints have begun to twinge me. This possible new progression of my arthritis is another groaner. In addition, for the past two months my left elbow has been swollen and tender.

I'll wait a while to see if any of this goes away. If not, then I go to Doc Myers again so he can add another page of notes to my file.

My private estimate is that in about two years I'll be seriously handicapped by arthritis and have to cut down severely on my publishing.

8-6-78 To my astonishment, it appears I'll have to run off about six hundred copies of this issue, as REG subscriptions keep coming in.... Stupidly, I threw away the stencils for #2 and had to have an extra 75 copies printed by offset...and I'm not even sure that's going to be enough.

A team of cancer specialists have compared survival statistics for the three basic breast tumor operations—removal of tumors, removal of the breast and the radical removal of breast, muscles and lymph nodes—and have discovered that in 1686 cancer operations there were "no statistically significant differences in five- and ten-year survival for simple, modified radical, or radical mastectomy."

So, if the patient does not benefit from a radical mastectomy (in fact is severely harmed by loss of arm mobility and long-term pain and disfigurement), who does benefit?

Why, the surgeon and the surgical team, and the hospital. Radicals cost much more and involve a much longer stay in the hospital.

A recent gathering at a medical school in France by researchers into marijuana effects on the human body (41 scientists from 13 nations) reported some disturbing findings:

Moderate and average doses of pot (one or two reefers per day) for as little as a few days can cause serious effects of male and female reproduction glands and organs—loss of ovulation, miscarriage, diminished sperm count and damage to sperm.

In addition, the children of pot mothers are more often damaged goods, hyperactive and genetically short-changed.

And habitual, long-term smoking of pot does, it seems, cause impairment of brain processes like slowed nerve impulses, and damage to those parts of the brain that control and regulate emotion and behavior.

This leads to a comment on the inevitable trade-offs in life. For there are medically valuable uses for marijuana in relieving certain eye problems, and in other areas I can't recall. This is true for any drug: you always pay a

price. I don't favor making any drug illegal. But the inevitable price you will pay for using it should be up front, clear, and understood. It should be taught in school, with refresher/reminder courses every year or so.

And then let people do as they wish with themselves, provided they take responsibility for those decisions. That would mean no public funds spent on them when the price has to be paid.

On the same day (yesterday) when foot-in-mouth Jimmy Carter was in North Carolina sucking up to a few thousand tobacco-oriented voters: "as long as I'm in the White House...we'll have a good tobacco-loan program.", the government was releasing a report that said that smoking cigarettes was just about the worst thing you can do on a long-term health trip—cancer, heart attacks, etc.

Carter said he thinks science will find a way to make smoking tobacco safe. In the meantime, America, keep on puffing and live on hope.

He didn't mention advocating research to make pot safe. Tsk, tsk. He really should, since it is now estimated that 9% of the high school seniors in the U.S. now smoke pot, and it is a close estimate that 29% of 16-17 year-olds have smoked the Weed, and 15% of 14-15 year-olds. Among these youths, regular marijuana use exceeded regular alcohol use.

But kids and most of the voting-age youth don't vote.

Ever notice how the Liberals—the New Puritans—are against polluting the air and water and ground, but are for their freedom to pollute their bodies. They want more personal freedom, and less economic and social freedom. They don't really dislike big government; they only want to use its power to their ends.

The same people who want to legalize pot want to pass laws against ownership of certain guns.

Everybody recognizes the "sauce" of government, but very few recognize themselves as ganders; they all think they are geese.

The team that buys Bill Walton will be buying a kid who can't reconcile his big money with his ideals—with conse-

quent emotional problems which result in a constant series of self-punishing injuries. As a professional athlete he's a lemon. Portland got one good year out of him, and a championship. But I doubt if Walton will let himself be on a winning team again...if he has any way to affect the situation significantly.

He's about to make a big deal with the NY Knicks—because they are owned by Gulf & Western, and are able to pay him what he'll ask. He hates big business and big money, so he'll make big business pay an exorbitant amount for his future services, and then contrive to deny them those services. Not consciously, of course, but he's into a Game with the NBA, and his Script calls for him to take the money and run.... while suffering injuries to justify it to the fans and management and most importantly himself.

8-10-78 Clipping from a friend of a NY TIMES story: 'Senate Votes Money for Research On Building Solar Power Stations.' The bill is part of a one-year reauthorization of basic research sponsored by the National Science Foundation. 'The study is intended to determine whether it would pay to develop full-scale orbiting power stations up to 12 miles long.'

I can see the headlines now: POWER BEAM FROM SATELLITE FRIES CLEVELAND. Accidental 'Wobble' Causes Third 'Incident' This Year. President Calls For Investigation.

Or
MISSILE ACCIDENTALLY HITS POWER SATELLITE. Ten States Dark. Satellite Parts Fall On Europe. Ten Billion Dollars Damages. President Calls For Investigation.

I see that Carter is inviting Begin and Sadat to Washington for a face-to-face 'crisis' attempt to get the peace talks going again.

I ask myself: why in hell is Carter willing to risk a likely, much publicized failure in this Egypt-Israel situation? Answer: the Rockefellers want him to do it, and he is in their hands. Why do they need to have the peace talks kept going? (There is no danger of war,

obviously—the arabs are busy fighting among themselves, and Egypt couldn't sustain a total war effort for more than a few days.) Because (I would guess) that is the only way they can keep Saudi Arabia placated. The Saudi's don't have to threaten to cut off oil anymore—all they need do is threaten to pull ten billion dollars in short term \$\$ deposits.... And the Rockefeller banks are vulnerable. And the U.S. economy is even more vulnerable.

So the middle-east dance continues with Carter and his bosses increasingly desperate...as the Saudi's tap their toes waiting for results...and with Begin still popular in Israel and with the U.S. jews, thus making administration pressure on Begin very difficult politically.

Begin is tougher than Carter/Vance/Brzezinski and Sadat. He'll play for time. All Carter, et. al. can do is hope he has a serious heart attack and a change in government is forced in Israel.

#Consumer credit expanded again in June at a heavy pace—\$3.79 billion dollars; down a bit from May's \$3.86 billion, but the fourth big increase in a row.

Unemployment jumped up to a "normal" 6.2% from June's fluke 5.7%. I would expect the rate (as adjusted and measured by the Labor Dept.) to inch upward from now on.

#The tax bills now being debated by Congress will only offset the inflation-of-incomes-into-higher-tax brackets. They will not include tax reductions or credits to offset Social Security increases or the minimum wage increase... or the OPEC increase in oil prices. So people will be worse off than before. No wonder voters are passing property tax relief propositions...it's the only effective way they have to cut the real total tax bite.

As noted before, the only way they will get significant federal tax and spending reduction is to unseat Liberal spenders and vote in tax-cut politicians (if there is such an animal!).

I am into a serious investigation of the cost effectiveness of a greenhouse: can a person raise enough winter vegeta-

bles to make the cost of the greenhouse and its heating worth it? I tend to think so.. A decent-sized greenhouse costs from \$600 to \$1,000. How much to heat it per day?—50¢ at least for about 150 days. Figure \$175. per year is your "nut". Figure you'd grow tomatoes, lettuce, early strawberries, cucumbers, carrots, beets, cabbages....

If you spend some time and effort and wasted no time replanting after harvest...you probably could make it pay. Then too, prices of vegetables and fruit will only go up and up during the years that you are "working off" the six year (or so) assigned to pay off the cost of the structure. After the greenhouse is paid for by produce-grown-in-it, your benefits are very high.

But you'd have to actually stick with it that long and work at it. Another benefit is that a well-made quality greenhouse will greatly increase the value of your house/property if you ever decide to sell.

The psychological benefits are enormous as you grow almost all the vegetables you need and acquire a greater degree of true independence from the State.

I have a tentative idea/plan that involves running an insulated hot air duct from the house oil heating system to the greenhouse. If I get a high-quality double-paned, insulated greenhouse which needs less heat, the hot air duct from the house would probably be enough to keep the plants from getting too cold. An emergency electric heater could be added for extreme cold periods.

I have a lot of thinking and pricing and reading to do before I make a move like this. But it has a great appeal to me.

(How would I heat the greenhouse if I had to stick to wood stove heat in the house? I'm not sure. Perhaps a small wood stove for the greenhouse, though that would be a bother. On the other hand, if things get so desperate that we cannot afford or obtain oil, and must grow food to stay alive, then a greenhouse stove would be willingly, lovingly tended.)

CAPSULE MOVIE COMMENTS

#GREASE is an adult version of a 1940's-1950's musical. John Travolta

plays yet another lower-class leader-of-a-clique. He's becoming typecast. As with the old Hollywood musicals set in high schools, the actors all are too old for their parts. But GREASE is a good, entertaining film. Travolta has charisma and is a surprisingly good actor.

DEATHSPORT 2000 is a send-up of the Car/Destruction Derby movies. It's a better movie than it seems, because of the satire and humor. Carradine plays it straight in spite of obvious temptations.

PRETTY BABY, the Malle movie that uses Brooke Shields (the 12-year-old actress to such good effect) is a loving and realistic look at life in a refined big-city cathouse in 1917. The sets are marvelous and the acting very good. The johns seemed absolutely authentic. The whores seemed too nice. The old madam was like the last dinosaur. See it.

CHINATOWN is another extremely well-done period-piece—Depression Los Angeles—with Jack Nicholson as a private detective dominating it beautifully. The movie wears well.

FOUL PLAY is your standard murder/suspense film in which Goldie Hawn resumes her sweetness-n-giggles image and Chevy Chase's comedic talents are 99% unused. (He does some few "clumsy" bits but they don't fit his role as a police detective.) There is the usual well-done car chase down the hill streets of San Francisco.

HEAVEN CAN WAIT is a nicely-done remake, and Warren Beatty is good as Joe Pendleton the football jock in need of a body...because of a screw-up in heaven. But the supporting cast, while adequate, doesn't match that of the original.

8-11-78 I see that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has decided that the "controversial" Seabrook atomic power plant may resume construction. This after the Environmental Protection Agency reversed itself again and decided the power plant's cooling tunnels would after all cool the hot water enough before injecting it into the ocean (and so the ecology of the seashore wouldn't be harmed significantly).

However the anti-nuclear power people—the Clamshell Alliance—say they will begin non-violent civil-disobedience actions immediately.

It has taken the federal and state licensing process 6½ years...and federal changes-of-mind may continue.

We'll probably see a couple thousand and dedicated young people arrested in New Hampshire before college starts. After that the effective protests will be have to wait until next June. Education comes first, after all. In fact, the promised current protests probably will not amount to much—because the kids won't want to risk a trial/jail period that would screw up the fall term for them...and make mother and dad very angry.

The cover-up of the conspiracy to assassinate JFK in 1963 may be at an end due to an inconceivable little detail—the sounds recorded over a police radio during the seconds of gunfire that killed Kennedy.

Experts think a certain sound may be that of a fourth shot, which if true would destroy the lone gunman fairy tale put forth by the Warren Commission. House of Representatives investigators are going to Deall Plaza in Dallas to try to recreate the situation, fire some rifle shots from different places, and, I assume record from the same type of police radio on the same type of equipment and tape.

If indeed that sound is a fourth shot, you can expect the case to open up wide...and lead God knows where.

I think it's hilarious that the NAACP and Julian Bond have filed suit in federal court to force the Federal Communications Commission to ban the word "nigger" from radio and TV. Their reasoning is that if the FCC can ban such words as fuck, shit, cunt, prick, etc., then a prime racially offensive word like nigger should also qualify.

If they win on "nigger" will they then go on to "coon" and "jig"? Will Jews ask that "kike" be banned? Will women go to court over "piece" or some other low-class slang? Will gays sue over "faggot"? Etc.? Etc.?

Since these words are only used in serious drama and socially conscious

comedy on TV and radio, or in serious discussions of a social or psychological problem...banning the words would be ridiculous and a kind of 1984-ish double-think.

Of course everybody is for freedom of expression and everybody is against censorship...except—

I think I'll start a class-action suit in federal court against the use of words like "crip" and "gimpy" to describe some handicapped people. Those words are very offensive, and.....

7-12-78 With the latest NBC poll showing Carter's popularity and image at disastrous lows (more and more people who voted for him now wouldn't), the White House has 'lashed back' at George Meany, the President of the AFL-CIO, because Meany, a tough old bird who says things bluntly, had the audacity to criticize Carter and Carter's policies.

By way of Labor Secretary Ray Marshall, the White House 'chastised' Meany in a 'stern public rebuke' because Meany's 'unwarranted attacks angered and disturbed Carter.'

Wow. God forbid that Our Leader be angered and disturbed by criticism!

Mistah Cahtah seems to be very thin-skinned. Great at preaching and pointing out the sins and failings of others, but unable to take it. Weak ego. Insecurity.

Meany, of course, lambasted Carter for what he (Meany) thinks are anti-labor policies in the administration's unrealistic anti-inflation program and postal settlement deal, as well as a perceived lack of support for pro-union labor law changes.

The labor movement thinks Carter has doublecrossed them. (As do the blacks and others.) They were conned. The Carter administration is a Rockefeller/Morgan/Big Money-obligated administration and its job is to carry out its orders and try to keep the con going.

Meany's statement in response to Ray Marshall's 'rebuke' goes to the heart of the matter: "The AFL-CIO will never be an instrumentality of government" in holding down wages or control of workers.

The big, organized unions will have to be broken or put under strict legal

federal control before the Statist dream of total control of everything and everybody can be complete.

Let's envision a scenario: Carter doesn't run or is defeated in 1980. A new President, picked and supported by the Rockefeller/Morgan power locus, is sworn in as the country is mired in a deepening depression. He and the media and events stampede Congress into passing "emergency" legislation giving the president virtual dictatorial powers to set up new bureaus and departments which involve massive new controls over money, production and labor.

The beneficial medical effects of marijuana are being neutralized by the development and testing by Eli Lilly & Co.'s new drug, Nabilone, a synthetic cousin of THC.

The new drug also relieves eye-ball pressure in glaucoma cases, also helps greatly the nausea and vomiting side-effects of cancer chemotherapy.

What Nabilone does not have is pot's euphoria or "high"...and social stigma (among certain older, square people).

The timetable now is that Nabilone will be approved by the FDA within two years, for prescription-only dispensation.

This new drug satisfies everyone with any power: a drug company will make lots of money; the doctors will have a better treatment for some severe medical problems and they in turn will make more money and get credit and a good image, and the anti-pleasure puritanism so deeply embedded in our society can rest easy that marijuana can now be attacked on every front, and that vital medicine will not have the undesirable side-effect of euphoria or fun.

8-13-78 Front-page story this day: BIG FUSION POWER BREAKTHROUGH REPORTED. Princeton scientists have succeeded, for a short period, in producing nuclear fusion temperatures in a scale model device—a kind of magnetic bottle. The temperature achieved was 60 million-degrees centigrade.

Thus it is trumpeted that it is only a matter of time before huge commercial hydrogen fusion power plants will

be supplying us with virtually unlimited, cheap electricity. A full-scale test reactor is being built now at Princeton that is scheduled for completion in 1982. It is estimated that commercial fusion power won't be a reality until 2010 or so. A generation. And a whole lot of things could go wrong between now and then.

But the thing that bothers me is those incredible temperatures bottled in a strong magnetic field.

What happens if the magnetic "bottle" breaks at the wrong time? Is there an explosive expansion of all that contained heat? Given a commercial-size "bottle" that fails...would the released heat melt the facility...start fires in the countryside? Create strong air vector currents which would affect local weather? Release harmful gases from vaporized equipment into the air?

These are fears and speculations of the moment. Having a "bottled sun" in the same county—even the same state—does not turn me on. And you can imagine the scare tactics that could be used by the opponents of fusion power. (And there will be opponents—ideological, religious, commercial—who will fear or stand to lose from the introduction of fusion power.

Well, we don't have to worry about this kettle of fish for a few years, anyway.

Umm! The latest Gallup Poll shows 44% of the Demo voters want Edward Kennedy to be president in 1980, and only 20% want Carter. Jerry Brown came in at 11%.

Real Soon Now panic will hit the White House and Jimmy will start going to foreign countries, visiting with plain folk around the USA, and talking tough about evil forces which are against his reforms and policies.

When inflation and real dollar cost increases send the Cost of Living Index up at the rate of around 15% per year, expect even more panic in 1979 or 1980 and a congress that will be willing to impose wage-price controls "for a short time during the emergency".

Everyone in power knows wage-price controls don't work and only postpone further rises, but politicians live in the present and always hope something

will turn up. By telling businessmen and the labor bosses and the public that the controls are for a short time only, to give the government time to devise or implement an effective economic policy, the desperate administration and congress-people will con everybody—including themselves.

On the Republican side, 37% of the Republican voters polled favored Gerald Ford for 1980, while 31% wanted Ronald Reagan. Howard Baker came in a poor third with 9%.

Ford cannot run; the risk is too great that his wife might have a relapse of her drugs/alcohol or cancer problems.

Reagan will run for the nomination but will I think fail because of age and a desire by enough Republicans for a fresh, dynamic young conservative (and because the Rockefellers will oppose him very strongly). The big money people will try to nominate a man they control, but I suspect a young conservative with libertarian tendencies who has "electricity" might be able to overcome the inevitable big media smears and poor coverage and get to the people by other means.

According to an article in the paper today by Dave Goldberg, most of our presidents were heavily influenced as a child by a strong-willed, dominating mother.

A good way of predicting who our next president will be, might be to look at the family history and family relationships of the candidates.

For instance, if you could uncover something like the letter the 11-year-old Nixon wrote his mother that began, 'My dear master...' and ended, 'Your good dog Richard.' you might be in a position to clean up in placing election bets.

Trouble is, probably all the leading candidates have strong mothers, which is why they're leading candidates.

See you next issue.

RICHARD E. GEIS is published monthly at P.O. Box 11408, Portland, OR 97211. 60¢ per copy. Five issues for \$3.00, ten issues for \$6.00. Copyright (c) 1978 by Richard E. Geis