

PERSONAL JOURNAL #4

8-17-78 The devaluation of the dollar has gone so far, so fast that it has forced the powers-that-be to have Carter "show concern" by calling a "secret" conference with Blumenthal and Miller at the White House. The Federal Reserve then intervened slightly on the foreign exchange markets by selling some German marks in a token support move.

On that basis, plus a bit of tightening of interest rates by the Fed., the dollar has temporarily stopped dropping.

The administration was criticized by foreign exchange dealers for not helping stabilize a highly disorderly market situation last week when the dollar almost literally fell through the floor as central banks in Europe and in Japan refused to keep on buying dollars to keep their own currencies from gaining too much in relative value. But it had to have been a strong, private message from the Germans and/or the Swiss and Japanese and the Saudis which made Carter & Co. budge a bit and make a show of supporting the dollar.

The Europeans and the Japanese and the Saudis have weapons with which to fight back against the deliberate inflation/devaluation of the dollar that is the policy of the American establishment---they hold untold billions of U.S. Treasury bills and notes (hundreds of billions), and by cashing some in or refusing to buy more, they could force the Federal Reserve to raise all that extra debt money in the domestic capital markets, which would mean fierce competition for loans, which would mean 12-15% interest rates....and a quick shut down of the current mini-boom.

What our creditors abroad are telling U.S. authorities is: stop inflating faster than we are or we'll force you to stop.

Yet if the U.S. does cool off the money machine there will come a recession at least, and increased vulnerability to the rupture of the ominously heavy debt structure.

There's no way out. What the Establishment is doing is running a lick-and-a-promise policy, to buy time.

I just got through listening to Jimmy Carter lie and dodge and mis-state his way through another press conference. He used the dollar crisis to try to pressure congress again to pass his statist, controls-laden energy program. According to him and his administration con men, our huge balance of payments deficit and dollar devaluation are due to our importing so high a percentage of our oil. His argument is that because all these billions are going out-of-country to pay for oil imports, our dollar is falling in value.

Bullshit. And he knows it!

The strongest currency in the world is the Swiss franc. The Swiss have to import all their oil. As do most of the continental European countries. They don't have massive balance of trade problems, 10% inflation or an entire country in debt to its eyeballs.

Using oil imports as an excuse for our money/inflation problems is a red herring----a lie. The Swiss live within their income and back their paper money wity gold.

The U.S.A. used to do this, too, but that kind of discipline became "old fashioned" as the Liberals (backed by the Establishment-

controlled big media) wanted to spend all kinds of money on social programs and subsidy programs (so they could hook states, cities and whole classes of people on "free" federal money).

So deficits---larger and larger---were run, debt in the private sector was promoted to keep the economy running at forced draft to help pay for the social programs, and for political purposes, and over a generation the entire country was happily going deeper and deeper into debt (and banks and other lenders were busy reaping the happy interest harvest).

Until, now, debt-junkies, we have to have ever-increasing "hits" of debt to keep our heads above water, to mix a metaphor...and there are those with vast power and money who are able to take advantage of this situation (having engineered it). A hundred billion dollars (with escape hatches everywhere in the world) knows how to protect itself, and can be so utterly ruthless in the process as to be bloodcurdling to the average person who observes it and perhaps suffers from it.

The megafortunes will not be hurt significantly by the coming financial diasasters...though they will take pains to make it seem so.

8-18-78 The House hearings on the Martin Luther King, Jr. assassination have lately become interesting as experts admit they can't prove the bullet that killed King came from the rifle "dropped" outside the rooming house from which the shot was supposed to have been fired, and cannot prove the shot came from the window heretofore assumed as the firing site (could be it came from the bushes below the window).

Now, with James Earl Ray in the witness chair, the Committee members are acting as prosecutors trying to destroy Ray's credibility. Ray says a mysterious man names Raoul probably set him up as a patsy for the killing. To that end when Louis Stokes, D-Ohio asked how he explained the fact that his (Ray's) fingerprints were on the rifle, and not Raoul's, Ray said, "I wouldn't leave fingerprints on a rifle if I was going to use it in a serious crime."



Stokes: "How would he wipe off his fingerprints without wiping off yours?"

Ray: "I wouldn't put them on ...I would use Band-Aids on my fingertips."

That exchange is convincing to me. Ray is supposed to have followed King from city to city, apparently seeking an opportunity to shoot King. He planned, he was an experienced criminal, a bank robber, and had served time. He would not leave his fingerprints all over an assassination rifle (if he used it) and then drop it on the way to his car. (Hell, he would drop the rifle ---print-free---out of the window to the bushes below and then go to his car. Why in God's name would an assassin carry the assassination rifle out onto the street after the shooting? The man is not an idiot. If he was cunning enough and smart enough to acquire passports and travel papers in Canada and evade a world-wide manhunt for months, he was smart enough to not make incredibly dumb incriminating mistakes immediately after the assassination. The whole case as known to the public is a sham in some way.)

As for Ray's claim that Percy Foreman, his lawyer, convinced him to plead guilty and avoid a trial (and short-circuit all the attendant publicity and notoriety for both Ray and Foreman) suggests that a deal was made with the prosecution and judge---and Ray was doublecrossed. I know Percy Foreman wouldn't give up a big, juicy trial like that for no good reason.

I know Percy Foreman. He was my lawyer (paid for by the publisher) during an obscenity case in 1964-65 in Iowa when the federal govt. was out to punish sex novel editors, publishers and writers (and picked Brandon House as an example to others). The govt. lost, eventually. (When they're on thin legal ground and are unsure of their case they always try to get an edge by illegal means---bugging, 'poisoning' a grand jury, etc.) Since then the smut-hunters in the federal bureaucracy have gone on to prosecute SCREW and various porno movie producers, actors and distributors. They almost always shop around for a good, conservative city or town in a southern or midwest state which has an ambitious, cynical local D.A. in which to set up their case. Obliging postal inspectors using false names always help.

But back to Percy Foreman: He's very sharp, very personable, very commanding (a big, over-six

foot man, with a great voice), and very interested in big money (or big diamond) fees...and loves big cases that reap big publicity. He is persuasive---a big, high-powered famous lawyer. It would be difficult for a client to go against his advice.

Yeah, I believe Ray was conned into pleading guilty...or was part of a conspiracy and was supposed to be paid a bundle for taking what he thought would be a short fall and keeping the case quiet and untried.

If the King assassination was a conspiracy, then the other conspirators must be secure in having eliminated all evidence linking them to Ray (perhaps by killing Raoul?) which would explain why Ray is alive today---he can't hurt the real instigators and manipulators.

With the House Committee seemingly dedicated to convicting Ray in the public's mind, perhaps there is a 'fix' in there.

8-20-78 I see a follow-up story on the attempt by experts to make rifle shot recordings in Dealey Plaza in Dallas to find out if a sound recorded from a police radio during President Kennedy's assassination is in fact the sound of a fourth shot

The test is due for this morning. The AP story says 'Police marksmen will fire shots from the old Texas School Book Depository building as acoustics experts try to determine whether more than three shots were fired....'

Yeah? ONLY from the building? Not also from the famous wall behind the grassy knoll?

Will the police use a bolt-action Mannlicher-Carcano rifle with the same type ammunition Oswald is supposed to have used? Will they use the same type police radio and recording equipment? These critical elements in the tests are not mentioned.

8-21-78 A longer follow-up story about the shots/recording testing in Dealey Plaza in the paper today. The experts did use a rifle 'similar' to the Mannlicher-Carcano, and a few shots were fired from the grassy knoll---but only pistol shots. WHY only pistol shots? The sounds made by pistol and a rifle are different.

CBS made the mistake of playing a recording of the recording

made from a police radio during the assassination: the "shots" sounded to me to be three---BANG pause BANG BANG. The timing is everything! If Oswald had done the shooting alone there could not have been a close BANG BANG grouping. The Mannlicher-Carcano couldn't be fired that quickly.

I am inclined to predict that because of the fourth shot and timing 'problem' the tests will be declared to be inconclusive.

8-26-78 Okay, no more Mr. Nice Guy. Yesterday, while we were away, some local kids (we were told by neighbors who saw them, too late) entered our backyard and wantonly and maliciously stripped one of the pear trees of all its fruit. It was just a vandalism trip---the pears weren't ripe enough to eat.

These three boys---about 10-12 years old (two blacks and one white) have been backyard snooping and vandalizing for a week or more locally. A big garden next door is missing an entire bean crop, for Christ's sake! (But I'm inclined to blame thieving adults for that---pre-teen boys don't seem likely to be willing to take the time and do the work involved in harvesting a large (at least a bushel basket) crop of string beans.)

So I'm forced to put up a fence around the backyard to protect my crops and to protect the greenhouse I plan for next year.

I see these incidents as harbingers of the future---as unemployment becomes much worse and as the state cuts back on welfare benefits. Some people will sneak around at night raiding other people's gardens.

I'll have a six foot high fence at least and if it's legal I'll string some unobtrusive barbed wire along the top.

8-28-78 Another story about the JFK assassination in the news today. In this one a Dallas newspaper says five people report having encountered men who flashed badges and claimed to be Secret Service agents at Dealey Plaza before and after the assassination. One such "agent" kept two Dallas police officers from pursuing a running-away man in the parking lot behind the grassy knoll immediately after the assassination.

The Warren Commission Report asserts there were no Secret Service men there.

Who do you believe? Were those men part of a conspiratorial force assigned to cover the getaway of the gunners?

Oh, and this story says the recent acoustics tests made in Dealey Plaza also included rifle shots from the grassy knoll. Thank you, Portland OREGONIAN for printing incomplete stories [Gotta make room for all them advertisements, I know...] or thank you Associated Press for not giving all relevant, critical facts in your first two or three stories.

Radio report this morning says the Israelis have found more oil in the occupied Sinai desert. If it's a big find you can bet your bagles Begin will be very difficult to deal with in the September face-to-face meetings with Sadat engineered by Carter.

The Egyptian leader might shift his demands to a return of the Sinai...and be significantly quiet about a solution to the West Bank and Gaza Strip areas and the Palestinian refugee problem.

If there is a lot of oil under the Sinai, the Israelis may never give it back.

Yeah, as I suspected, there is a good likelihood of a postal workers strike this week. The postal service is being stubborn about renegotiating the contract, and seems willing to take a strike. President Carter may have to declare a national emergency and use soldiers to handle the mail as best they can.

Carter hasn't said anything about the mail situation, but he may have to soon. He'll sure as hell have to order the postal service hard heads back to the table to renegotiate the contract reached with the union heads but rejected by the union members.

There is some justice in the members' position: the contract calls for a 19% wage increase over three years with an additional 9.75% cost-of-increase clause. But that totals to only about 29% over three years...9.58% per year, maximum. That sounds fantastic, but workers are hip to what the government is doing to the value of paper money today---devaluing it at a 10-11-12% rate per year. The postal workers can see clearly they actually stand to lose real purchasing power if they accept this contract. They would be in effect agreeing to a cut in real wages. You can't blame them for being willing to strike.

Whether sorting mail and delivering it is worth what they get now is another question.

It should come as no surprise that China has announced it is willing to sell crude oil to certain Western oil companies. This is what Rockefeller & Agents have been aiming for. More deals will follow.

A young man, angered at being evicted for non-payment of rent, here in Portland, had printed up some circulars advertising a 'Demolition Party' to be held at his house.

At the height of the 'riot' at the house it is estimated that 300 youths attended. The house suffered extensive damage to walls, windows and plumbing. Several fires were set but put out.

Eight people were arrested by police.

Somehow, I don't think the usual cleaning deposit will cover the losses.

And somehow I think other young people will find it more and more difficult to find reasonably-priced rental housing.

Used to be a motto during the '60s---Never Trust Anyone Over Thirty. Now it is Never Trust Anyone Under Thirty.

Another reason for the fence I may have put up around my backyard---my neighbors to the right are both in the hospital; she with a severe stroke which mandates convalescent home care the rest of what life she has left, and he with the terminal stages of cancer.

Their home will be sold eventually, to...who? Ghod knows what will move in next door. Most likely a young couple with a couple of kids.

The older I get the more I dislike kids.

But...a fence---the kind I want---would cost over \$1,000. and I can't afford it. I'll probably stick with my original plan of raising a perimeter of closely spaced rose bushes and holly trees at appropriate places. That, plus the hedge that is half grown now. A natural fence with a great deal of psychological inhibitions built into it---thorns.

8-29-78 The postal service and the postal unions stood toe to toe...and the postal service blinked. It appears there will be no postal strike for a couple more weeks, as the parties renegotiate the contract.

Great. That means all the SFRs in the mails will be delivered, now.

The govt. reports this morning that the Consumer Price Index went

up again for July---.5%, which means the rate of price increases declined a bit to 6% on a yearly basis from the previous 11%. But not to worry---the rate is scheduled to climb back to the 'double-digit' rate later this year.

Also today is the news that our balance-of-payments deficit rate took a huge jump in July: 2.9 billion compared to June's 1.6 billion.

The U.S. govts. recent moves to support the foreign exchange value of the dollar---

#Sell more gold

#Making it easy for U.S. banks to borrow \$\$ overseas

is like a spendthrift selling his wedding ring and borrowing still more money in order to keep up his expensive life-style. These moves by the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Dept. are all short-term bandages. The real cure---balancing the budget---is 'out of the question', so for a few weeks maybe the dollar's value will roughly stabilize. But the fundamentals will remain...and then the dollar will resume its slide.

That gimmick---making it easier for big U.S. banks to borrow dollars in Europe [to drain off some of the glut] is a robbing-Peter-to-pay-Paul device: sucking a few billions of dollars into this country from overseas will only expand the money supply and make prices leap again later...1979, probably. The administration is the author of its own discontent.

Auto sales fell last week below last year's rate. If that faltering continues it's a sure sign that the supply of regular and borrowed-against-next-year customers is running out...which would signal for sure the beginning of the recession/depression.

Sen. Edward Kennedy told the nation's governors that adequate health care is a 'basic human right', and to tie national health care to budget considerations is a denial of human rights.

Kennedy said soaring health costs are beginning to seriously disturb middle-income families, and he thinks that could cause an 'insurrection to rival or surpass the current taxpayers revolt.'

Yuk, yuk. Medical costs have risen more than the basic inflation rate to the extent that government has gotten its feet into the door with Medicare and Medicaid.

Kennedy proposes to cure govt. inspired and caused price increases by getting the govt. neck deep into the health care business.

The federal rules, regulations and paperwork would be wonderful to

behold, and the fraud investigations would come thick and fast, and in order to really control costs, eventually, the federal government would be 'forced' to force doctors to work for it, and have to force people to go to those doctors, and force everyone to pay for it.

Patricia Harris, secretary of HUD, said Monday that the middle class is prejudiced against the poor because they are poor.

Tsk. No, the middle class is prejudiced against the poor because the middle class is taxed to pay for govt. goodies given to the poor.

Harris says all the poor and minorities have to stop fighting each other and band together to resist the desire by the wealth-makers to keep more of their hard-earned wealth. [And above all, she wants to keep the Department of Housing and Urban Development in business...maybe even get bigger!]

She used a remarkable phrase: she thought Prop. 13 passed in California because voters wanted to cut welfare and "end educational services to children of undocumented workers."

What the hell is an 'undocumented worker'? Ohhh...wetback kids.

I think I see... First we spend all kinds of money trying to keep illegal immigrants out of our country, and then we give welfare and education to their children if they make it in. Sort of a reward by one department of govt. to anyone who outwits another department of govt.

They get us coming and going.

8-30-78 Further thought on the advisability of fencing the backyard prompted me to call Sears and have them send an estimator out. He called, he arrived, he looked, we talked, he figured, and he said a figure which was several hundred dollars less than I had expected.

For about \$580 we'll have a heavy gauge chain link fence (with the barbed link-ends up---normally in residential installations they string the chain link with the wicked things at ground level, but I'm paranoid and mean!) that, with the existing wired back fence put in years ago by my step-dad, will present a would-be invader with a six foot barb-topped wall...all around the backyard. There will be a gate, of course, six feet high, and I'll install a deadbolt key lock on that.

The fence will probably be in by the end of September.

After that, if I put in a greenhouse, I'll feel secure that as-

sorted little local monsters won't be marauding and breaking at will.

To make the chain link more attractive I'll thread ready-made strips of redwood slantwise in the fence---and (cunning consideration) deny any would-be fence climbers toe holds in the fence. And I'm not above planting spaced climbing rose bushes whose thorny tentacles can be trained to intertwine along the top of the fence....

Some of you thinking, "My God, this guy is making a bloody fortress of his home and yard!"

True. I am. But from the street only eight to ten feet of the fence will be visible, and with a hedge growing in front of it, and shrubs, and redwood slats in it, the fence will be unobtrusive and unremarkable.

I expect very rough times to come in the next ten years, and it is entirely possible that a big garden will have to be guarded day and night during harvesting periods.

And the less passersby can see, the less they know...the better.

There are signs now that the Federal Reserve is not going to restrict the money supply as much as it needs to even slow down inflation. There could be an inflationary blow-off if they don't bite the bullet. And we could have martial law, rule by presidential edict, and a "postponement" of elections.

This business of the people making their own laws by initiative and a possible constitutional convention and amendments to the constitution is deeply disturbing the ruling class. It may be decided ---or may have been decided---to teach the people a lesson! There's nothing like a nice depression "caused" by "misguided but sincere" common people (like Jarvis, of Prop. 13 fame) to bring a population of insecure, dependent, debt-ridden citizens to heel.

I enjoyed a huge salad of pickled-within-the-hour lettuce, cucumbers, peppers, and cherry tomatoes. I added cubed cheese, a sprinkle of Salad Supreme seasonings, a dollop of vinegar and a bit of salad oil. Delicious.

I am really at a loss to explain the surfacing of the dispute among administration bigwigs over the sale or non-sale of oil-drilling technology: a \$144 million deal to build and turn over a plant in the Soviet Union for producing oil bits.

Brzezinski is against the sale, while the Commerce Dept., the

Treasury Dept., State Dept., and Defense Dept. support it and issued the export license.

These are all Trilateral Commission and Council on Foreign Relations people. All in the Rockefeller camp.

So what's going on? Is there a deep strategic split in the Ruling Class in this country? Is there a power-vacuum at the top? Has David Rockefeller fallen or impotent?

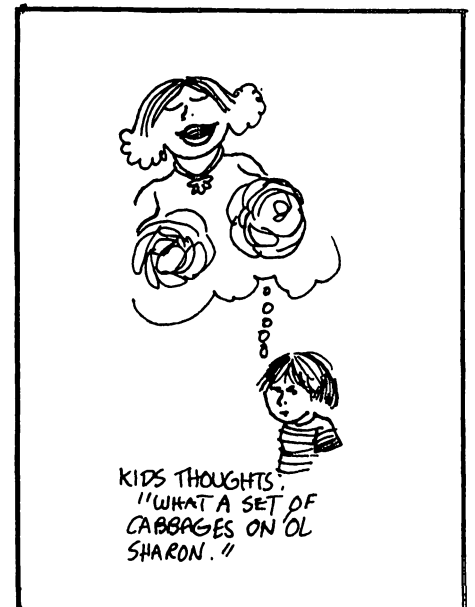
I can see why Brzezinski opposes the sale---Exxon and Standard Oil and etc. don't want the Russians able to go deep and find God-knows how much new oil [which is WEALTH] and gaining yet more advantage over the U.S. and the interlocked interests of the major world-wide banks and corporations.

I can't see why Blumenthal, Vance and Brown are for the sale. To placate the USSR? To buy yet more time? To make the USSR more dependent on the transnationals for technology, parts, electronics, etc?

Is a puzzlement.

Part of the appeal of a powerful conspiracy of bankers and businessmen who control the country and all or most of the world is the security it gives. "At least somebody is in command! At least a plan for the world does exist."

But if the real powers-that-be are in disarray or squabbling among themselves.... AAAAAARRRRGH!



INTELLECTUALS WAIT FOR GODOT.
PESSIMISTS WAIT FOR A DEPRESSION.

CAPITALISM IS A PROCESS THAT CREATES WEALTH AND DISTRIBUTES IT UNEVENLY. LIBERAL/SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IS A PROCESS THAT CREATES POVERTY AND DISTRIBUTES IT EVENLY.

9-3-78 At present rates of inflation, what will prices be like in ten years...twenty years...? Manplan Consultants of Chicago did a "if this goes on..." study and came up with the following:

	1977	1987	2001
Low-priced car	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 17,700.00	\$ 105,000.00
High-priced car	12,000.00	55,320.00	471,240.00
Private college tuition	3,840.00	7,219.00	17,510.00
Average house	54,000.00	191,160.00	1,134,000.00
Bar of soap	.35	3.01	61.12
Toothpaste	.79	4.89	62.80
Rump roast (1 lb.)	1.49	1.64	1.89
Ground beef (1 lb.)	1.19	2.57	7.54
Coffee (1 lb.)	3.25	163.86	39,642.00
Jelly (small jar)	.59	5.28	113.98
Sunday Newspaper	.60	4.38	70.92

I wonder how they got that absurdly low rump roast price?

Equally absurd is the realistic prospect of prices reaching these levels by 2001. [Do I hear a reader in Italy laughing hollowly? Is that what they said of the lira prices twenty-five years ago?]

If you had \$15,000. in 1977 and went into a cave with it and hibernated with it for a generation, what would it buy in 2001? THAT'S HOW the government invisibly sucks away the value of savings.

A FEW MOVIE REVIEWS-----

BLACKOUT: a grade-b or c film in which some criminal crazies escape and do their violent thing in a luxury apartment house during a NYC blackout. A heroic cop kills them. I felt the stabbing of the old magician was pointless and gratuitous...but crazies do things like that. They also burn precious, irreplaceable paintings and rape women. And shut off life-essential medical equipment.

This is a disturbing movie. Especially since there will be more and more power breakdowns all over the country in years to come.

THE CHEAP DETECTIVE is a nice, broadly humorous romp by Neil Simon as he used THE MALTESE FALCON, CASABLANCA and other Bogart films to make fond fun of the genre. Peter Falk is very good, and the supporting comedic cast is excellent.

HOOPER: Burt Reynolds didn't go anywhere until he was allowed (or took the chance) on showing his humor and comedy skill. Now he is a superb combination of macho, self-mockery and story-telling skill as producer-actor of his films.

There are serious, loving,

human scenes in this film, enough to make Hooper very real and flawed and alive. That aspect enhances the low brawls, the men's jokes, the action and the stunts. The story is about a king-of-stuntmen

in the movies and the challenges (a hurting, injured body, a young challenger, a love-identity crisis) he must face and overcome.

A good, fun/serious movie... a fantasy about stunt men.

HEAVEN CAN WAIT: Warren Beatty's remake of WAITING FOR MR. JORDAN. He is fine, but with the exception of James Mason, the supporting cast isn't up to that of the first treatment.

It seemed a bit bland.

JAWS II: An okay horror film, of its type [evil, man-hating beast], but I found the hysteria and helplessness of the teen-agers in the second half of the film to be offensive and unrealistic.

The klutzy incompetence of the cop/hero in spots was inappropriate. Still, he showed courage in the showdown. I doubt there'll be a JAWS III.

9-4-78 I see that the American Psychiatric association is doing away (officially) with the term "neurosis." There is a task force of psychiatrists writing the third APA dictionary of mental illness, used mainly as a guide in making diagnoses.

The reasoning for making "neurosis" declassé and taboo and unchic is that psychiatrists have been getting a bad press in the last few years---and they want to reshape their image and terminology to make themselves appear more medical.

So "neurosis" now becomes "disorder." In place of hysterical conversion neuroses, patients will now have "somatoform disorders." In place of depressive neuroses there

will be "major depressive disorders." Depersonalization neurosis will henceforth be known as "dissociative disorders."

Isn't that nice? Now, if only the psychiatrists could redefine their low cure-rate somehow....

Fascinating clues in the news today:

The Russians are claiming, in PRAVDA, that the talks between Carter, Begin and Sadat at Camp David this week are a window-dressing cover for a plan to put U.S. military forces in the Middle East.

They say that the American public is being prepared for an American takeover of the West Bank, and the creation of an American air base in the Sinai. There may also be American bases in Israel and a security treaty with Israel.

#Carl Rowan, a Liberal newspaper columnist, in his column today discusses the Middle East talks and says, "If there is no peace, or meaningful movement toward peace, in the Middle East, there will be another war---no later than the fall of 1979. And it will be a more destructive war than anything occurring in the past 30 years. Such a war will have a devastating effect on the economies of the United States, Western Europe and Japan."

#In an interview with several union editors Aug. 18, President Carter said he would not ask for mandatory wage-price controls on the economy except in an emergency.

The president said that while most Americans might want mandatory federal wage and price controls, "I am philosophically opposed to it and will not impose such controls unless our nation faces a very serious emergency or crisis."

How could there be a very destructive war in the Middle East? Egypt could not mount such an effort. And Syria is tied up in occupation of Lebanon, and Jordan hasn't the will or the army to make a dent in Israel.

So who will cause all the destruction and devastating economic effects? Rowan is talking about Saudi Arabia and other OPEC countries imposing another oil embargo.

That would be a national emergency and crisis. It would prove Carter right. It would be excuse enough (with the currently engineered 10-15% inflation rate and recession coming on) to impose wage-price controls, energy controls....

But what if the Russians are correct---the U.S. is going to put bases in the Sinai and militarily occupy or have a presence in the West Bank area. Wouldn't that

keep the Middle East war from happening? Wouldn't a crisis be avoided?

That crisis might be. But what if Russia instigates an invasion of Saudi Arabia from the horn of Africa where they have several client communist states? What if the ruler of Iran decides to take over Saudi oil wells?

I'm inclined to think that if we put a military force in the Middle East, it will be an opening wedge, and an expeditionary force will be fighting in Africa within a few years.

A lot of people are convinced a manufactured crisis is in the works because the secret rulers of this country are facing severe economic management problems here, and will need a new war to justify the police state "emergency" measures that will be required. And they need the "crisis" to block the revolt gathering power now in the middle class whose aim is to limit the power of the federal government and the states in tax and regulatory areas.

9-9-78 The outbreaks of Legionaire's Disease in NY and a couple southern cities--with the total of victims up in the hundreds---suggests something weird.

Dr. Peter Beter, in his latest Audio Letter, says the Legionaire's Disease is biological warfare, a kind of sabotage inflicted upon us by the Russians. They are setting us up for an epidemic of it.

That's hard to swallow; with air travel as prevalent as it is, with the incubation period what it is, they could be planting the seeds of their own destruction.

But I don't know enough about the disease. Can it be carried and passed by a human? If it is not a contagious disease the sabotage/conspiracy explanation may be a possibility. And planting it in an air-conditioning system would be an ideal way to spread it efficiently, for a test of its effectiveness.

The September, 1978 issue of PSYCHOLOGY TODAY contains an interesting article on brain cell research completed recently which disputes the findings of previous experiments.

Do we all think alcohol kills a whole lot of irreplaceable brain cells? Do we think we lose 100,000 brain cells a day after age 30?

Dr. Marian C. Diamond and associates studied the brains of healthy rats at various ages and concluded that there is no appreciable loss

of brain cells due to drinking moderately or due to aging.

They did find that environment has a great effect on rat brains---if a rat is challenged to learn and to contend with an 'enriched' environment...ladders, mazes, tunnels... he will develop a thicker cerebral cortex with more glia cells and increases in the size of synapses (junctions) between nerve cells, than rats kept by themselves or in the standard three-rats-to-a-plain-cage situation.

And this enrichment is effective at every age.

So the worst thing to do to people (if you agree that these findings apply to human brains, too) is keep them in sedentary confinement in a dull, boring environment, such as a nursing home or a prison or a sanitarium...or a routine job/home situation.

So go ahead and drink that gin, and read that 'forbidden' book, and follow that hobby and open up your life if you feel a need. It'll do you good. And you'll probably live longer.

The House Committee investigating JFK's assassination has heard from John Connally (who was in the car with Kennedy and was also shot) that he heard the first shot, was turning to see if Kennedy was okay, when another bullet got him (Connally).

The problem with this is that the first bullet HAS TO have passed through Kennedy's throat from behind and entered Connally's torso, cracked some ribs, exited, shattered his wrist, exited, and come to rest in his thigh. Because Oswald missed with his second shot and supposedly blew away Kennedy's head with the third.

But you'd think Connally would have noticed the first bullet doing all that damage before he heard the sound. Obviously an unreliable witness. Especially since Mrs. Connally agrees with him, and she was sitting beside him.

A scientist has proven, with some fancy tests, that the bullet fragments in Connally's body match the bullet that was found on his stretcher after he arrived at the hospital. But there is no way to tell if the bullet also or previously passed through JFK's neck.

I swear I heard a news report saying that the acoustics experts who tested Dealey Plaza against that police radio recording of "shots" during the assassination will say that there were four shots.

Four shots would confirm Connally's conviction that the first shot missed him, since he heard it and

wasn't hit, and that a second shot hit him.

But that makes Oswald's third shot a miss and a fourth shot the one that exploded John Kennedy's head.

Except that Oswald didn't have time to make four shots. Which forces the admission of a second rifle and a conspiracy...exactly what the Establishment does not want to admit.

A good harvest this summer has temporarily brought down the wholesale price index a hair for August. And new car sales are still ahead of last year, but by declining margins, and the money supply declined last week by 1.8 billion, for a change. And unemployment declined to 5.9% (if you believe the Labor Dept.'s accuracy after the previous two months' yo-yo performance which they admit was "wrong statistical interpretation"...)

So enjoy the euphoria until the next balance of trade deficit and the next set of interest rate boosts.

"It's all in your head." used to be the lay diagnosis for a lot of ills. It was a put-down remark, suggesting that the problem could be dealt with by will-power and right-thinking if the sufferer only wanted to be cured enough. [And if the problem continued, then the sufferer was a malingerer!]

Then medical science began to discover by god that most of it WAS in the mind...but effectively beyond the control of 99.9% of the people.

Now, with the discovery of endorphins (proteins released by the brain and the pituitary gland which act to inhibit brain receptions of pain signals) much more is understood about the body's natural pain suppression system.

It explains why placebos and suggestion work as well as strong pain-killing drugs, sometimes. If the patient believes the pill will work, his belief triggers the release of endorphins.

Trouble is, only about one-third of the patients in experiments are able or willing to believe. The others need actual drugs to actually inhibit the pain reception process.

Of course, now this new information will be picked up by the media and by the mass-circulation tabloids, and everybody will know about the possibility that their doctor might be trying to "fool" them with placebos when they see him for pain relief. And the placebo treatment will be undermined by widespread awareness of its exist-

spasms...reflexes...could have jerked John Kennedy's body backward violently after taking a head shot from behind. What was not addressed was the facts of pieces of his skull and brain flying onto the rear left of the limousine and onto the street. Indeed, Jacqueline Kennedy scrambled out onto the rear left trunk hood to recapture a large chunk of skull. There are photos of this. I'll never be convinced that a muscle reflex could have spattered bones and brains like that. Only a dum-dum rifle slug, in my view. And a shot from the "grassy knoll" would have spattered JFK's head in the rear-left pattern.

The more you know about the information given out in the early days of the assassination aftermath, the more you are boggled by the misrepresentation, the too-narrow-focus of questions investigated, and the slanted reporting of the subsequent findings.

1984 is here. History is being rewritten before our eyes. It is interesting that none of the networks was interested in giving any air time to a knowledgeable Warren Commission Report critic. Such people are always ignored or smeared as "conspiracy buffs" or as one step from the looney bin. Of course the main reason critics are ignored is that they know too much and raise too many impossible-to-answer questions.

We are told now that soon ex-president Ford will appear in public session to talk about the assassination. Ford was on the Commission. He wrote a book which supported the Commission report [naturally] and which smeared Oswald [naturally]. He will do his duty again for this part of the coverup.

The establishment keeps trying, every few years, to "prove" to the people that the assassinations of the Sixties were crazy-lone-assassin efforts. And the people don't swallow it.

BOOK REVIEW

Well...this won't really be a review of *THE MACHINERY OF FREEDOM* by David Friedman. It will be an exploration of thoughts provoked by the book.

The book is a good series of arguments and examples showing that competition is good and freedom from government is good, and if only people would listen.... What the book is is another feeding of libertarian polemic to libertarians. "Another slice of Freedom, sir? Care for a bit of anti-authoritarian jelly on it?"

It's what we like to read.

But it has one serious, fatal flaw.

It's unrealistic at base because it ignores two fundamental

truths: the total freedom, libertarian, full competition, minimal government system is only possible on an expanding frontier...and by instinct humans do not want that situation for themselves for very long. They always want to get a lock of security, on assured profits, on protection.

On a frontier the young and old misfits and "sociopaths" and idealists can find what they need.

I think the whole thrust of mankind's development has been toward greater and greater control of the environment, to insure safety, to insure food and shelter.... To assure power.

Man is a social animal. We develop governments---laws---enforcers of laws. For short periods in small areas there may develop something akin to a Libertarian's ideal, or a near-total dictatorship.

But mostly there is a range of government forms and freedom/oppression balance which lasts. The forms change and the balance shifts, in cycles. The same "mistakes" are made again and again and again through history. Why? Because instinct is at work, not rationality.

The great rape of this planet's mineral resources due to the development of science and technology has masked these truths, leading many to think mankind is more master than slave to instinct. Science and technology will either get us out into space to a new frontier...or we will use up key resources and decline to a steady-state level of technology/civilization.

In any case the radical capitalist ideals and plans put forth in books like *THE MACHINERY OF FREEDOM* are inherently fantasy. For the mass of mankind the range of options is already in place. What you see is what you'll get. Large nations are limited over the long haul in how much freedom their citizens have, and how much they don't have.

China is joining the west in seeking technology and is abandoning Mao's isolationist, purity, extreme socialism. They are moderating, seeking [by instinct] a middle road.

This will happen to Cambodia, too.

In the USA there will be a move toward greater government control, in spite of (or because of) the current taxpayer revolt.

THE MACHINERY OF FREEDOM
By David Friedman
Arlington House, \$10.

The happy, healthy primitive living a life at home and in cooperation with nature is a dream/ideal/fantasy of many today, in this country...mostly among those

who have had nil contact with real primitives and primitive life.

In truth their lives are dirty, brutish and short...and if any one needs convincing, studies recently surfaced of a scurvy condition of loooong standing among aborigines in the Collarenebri region of Australia. The people had a 50% infant mortality rate. Dr. Archie Kalokerinos discovered 'dying children could literally be brought back from the brink of the grave with an injection of vitamin C.'

Vitamin C is also very effective in helping the body battle bacterial toxins.

And I remember reading years ago that vitamin C in massive doses was an excellent defense against nuclear radiation. public fall-out shelter (certainly every private shelter) should contain huge supplies of C.

Incidentally, did you know that the first point in a 1936 table tennis match between Poland's Alex Ehrlich and Rumanian Paneth Farcas lasted two hours and twelve minutes? You did?!

THE ONLY THING IS, IF THIS SPEAKER SYSTEM DOESN'T LIKE THE SPEECH, YOU GET FEEDBACK!



See you all next issue. I'll be sticking with offset from now on, for REG. It's much easier to use cartoons and such, this way.

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ence. [Aren't you glad I have alerted you?]

Now there is offered a computer chess game [you play against the computer] which has ten levels of playing difficulty. The name is Chess Challenger and sells for \$275. each. God, I'm tempted!

They should advertise it as a hermit's delight. Except there are so few hermits around...with that kind of money to spare.

A man who is an expert in what early North American primitives ate (he studies their dessicated shit) has been eating a similar diet for 4 years and is lean and trim as a result, he claims. He couldn't abide the thought of eating insects and cactus and etc., but he eats the same high-fibre, low fat, low sugar diet. It comes down to nuts, fruits, and vegetables. Some fish and poultry. Cantaloups and cucumbers are also in his diet. Berries, too.

Okay..... I think I'll plant me a walnut tree. Except I'd have to sacrifice some other tree.... Hmmm. Walnut trees cannot be (to my knowledge) grown to dwarf size. That would mean taking out the apricot tree and putting the walnut in its place, to allow enough sun for the greenhouse. The apricot could be moved...to...gad, there's no place for it within the backyard.

No, no, a full-size walnut tree is out of the question. It would cut off the sun from too many of the gardens.

The Oregon state politicians, terrified of the Proposition-13 type proposition approved by referendum and to be on the November ballot, were called into special legislative session by Governor Straub and quickly came up with an alternative, designed to seduce the voters away from the more drastic Proposition Six which is modeled on the California Prop.13.

THE ECONOMY IS NOTHING BUT ONE VAST SET OF SOCIAL COSTS. UNFORTUNATELY, WE NEED IT FOR TAX PURPOSES.



I MEAN, SOCIAL BENEFITS ARE EXPENSIVE!

It (Prop. 11--the legislators' effort) is a semi-transparent, temporary tax relief effort. The key is that the politicians have hidden some clauses in it which make tax increases easier and tax relief a one-year stall [in the case of freezing property tax assessments for one year only].

The tough, voter-referred proposition limits taxes on all property to 1-1/2% of assessment and requires all new state and local tax measures pass by a two-thirds majority of the voters.

Which means new taxes would virtually cease to be voted in. And a severe cut in local government spending would be forced.

I can predict that, as in California, the politician's proposition will be voted down, and the tough 1-1/2% limitation will be voted in. Somehow, the voters don't trust politicians anymore.

The politicians have tried to buy the votes of renters by putting in a renters' refund in their proposition. But I still think they'll lose.

Of course the local Liberal media are against the tough #6, and of course everyone is being labeled irresponsible and selfish if they vote for it, and all kinds of terrible cuts in police, fire and schools are threatened....

We'll see.

9-12-78 The Warren Commission Report has been destroyed and it has been proved that there were two guns firing at JFK in Dealey Plaza, but you wouldn't know it from the major media reports of the evidence given by the acoustics experts who analyzed the police radio tape and who conducted rifle and pistol firing tests in the plaza recently.

CBS, NBC, the New York Times News Service story written by Nicholas M. Horrock...all emphasize the 'weak' likelihood that four shots were fired. As the experts say, they are 95% sure of two shots, and are 60-70% sure of a third shot. They give only 50% probability that the sounds on the tape indicate a fourth shot.

BUT because of the timing of the shots, Oswald could only have fired twice!

The shots, according to the experts, were fired thus: there was a 1.6-second lapse between the first and second shots, a 5.9-second gap between the second and third shots, and a half-second gap between the third and fourth shot.

The FBI tests in 1964 (and the CBS tests which weren't mentioned) found that it took an expert marksman 2.3 to 2.5 seconds to load and aim the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle that was 'identified as the weapon used on Kennedy.'

This is so damaging to the conspiracy and the coverup that G. Robert Blakey, the committee counsel, announced late Monday that the Washington metropolitan police [why them?] are conducting new firing tests of the Italian rifle to confirm the FBI firing times. He said the preliminary results of these tests showed the rifle could be aimed and fired in a shorter time than was originally thought.

Accurately aimed? And does the rifle used by the Washington police have a bent sight like the one said to be used by Oswald? And is that 'shorter time' at least 1.6 seconds? No answers yet. But they are working on it. Don't be surprised if they decide Oswald was really firing a better weapon. Maybe the German rifle originally identified by the Dallas police.

'James E. Barger, the acoustics expert, said under questioning that one test pattern of shots suggested that at least one noise on the tape might be the sound of a rifle shot from an area called the "grassy knoll" rather than the Texas School Book Depository building where Oswald is said to have hidden.' But the "grassy knoll" is the least likely (the 50% one) according to the tests.

What is even more interesting is that no one--not the FBI, the Dallas police, the House Committee investigators---no one has been able to discover who the motorcycle cop was whose radio transmitter stuck open during the assassination. And of course he has not come forward. Why not? Why not?

So concerned (desperate?) was CBS to knock down the fourth shot and tape recorded shots that they interviewed two Dallas policemen who said the police radio was broadcasting on channel one instead of channel two (which was the JFK procession channel for the day) and that no crowd sounds were hearable on the tape as one would expect.

But these considerations weren't raised by the House Committee and certainly would have been if they were valid. So here is another example of CBS warping the news. CBS has a great amount of reputation and hubris invested in the Warren Commission Report, since CBS has spent a great deal of money and has made its own tests and used hours of expensive air time in attempts to support and confirm the Warren Report findings.

One more curious item: the experts have said it is possible to likely that muscle contractions...