

RICHARD E. GEIS a personal journal
RICHARD E. GEIS a personal journal with fiction
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JOURNAL #15

8-14-79 I am informed that I neglected to put an issue number on REG last issue. Isk. There goes my reputation for never making mistakes.

The local bus service recorded a 16% increase in ridership in July, and a 91% increase in the purchase of monthly passes.

The price and availability of gasoline does affect people's behavior.

This is only the beginning, folks.

I see that John Connally, not having learned a damned thing from Jimmy Carter, is changing his stand on abortion to suck up to the right-to-life movement and the hard right-wing. He's trying to avoid firm policy and convictions, with the result, if he continues down this seductive road, of an enhanced reputation of a con man trying to sucker the American people one-more-time.

Picture this scenario: 'Bodies littered the radiation-permeated town of Greendale, victims of a catastrophic melt-down at the nearby nuclear generating plant. Latest estimates are of a death toll of 10 to 15 thousand people.

'Search and rescue teams cannot enter the area because of the extreme radiation danger....'

A story like that every 15 years or so would kill nuclear power in this country—and probably the world—so completely it would never recover. In fact, it would possibly kill the existing fusion power development.

BUT—

Just the other day in India a dam cracked open and a flood wiped out the town of Morvi. Latest reports say 10 to 15 thousand people are dead. Many parts of the town are clogged with mud and debris and remain inaccessible.

BUT—

A week from now that true catastrophe in India will have been forgotten. "Act of God." Too much rain...

The last big dam disaster was in Belluno in northeast Italy in 1962 when 2300 people died.

A follow-up story about Three Mile Island appeared today, too: nobody has yet died as a result of that March 28 nuclear power plant accident. Chances are up to 100 people will die of cancer or something...may live shorter lives...as a result of the radiation that was vented during and after the accident.

The story (AP), by Paul Carpenter, tells of the time involved in getting the plant back into operation:

—Teams of experts to go into the plant's containment building, a huge concrete structure housing the crippled reactor, possibly by the end of the year.

—Using a spray system and a sea of water to flush the inside of the containment building by early next year.

—Opening the 41-foot-high carbon steel reactor vessel by the spring of 1981, so technicians can check the damage to the uranium core.

—Removal of 100 tons of uranium fuel, about 60% of which is damaged, by the fall of 1981.

—The shipment of 2000 to 2500 truckloads of waste material to a nuclear disposal site near Hanford, Washington.

'The utility warned that the schedule could be delayed by a number of factors, including possible lawsuits or government roadblocks.'

In terms of money and power, the loss and replacement of a nuclear power plant is on a par with the loss and replacement of a big hydro-electric dam.

But there is no movement to dismantle all hydro-electric dams. Why not? Dams demonstrably kill more people.

(Before I forget—characterizing the Hanford site as a 'nuclear disposal' area is adroit lying: it is a nuclear waste storage site. And it has a history of leaking nuclear fluid wastes into the ground every few years.

8-15-79 The latest flap over U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young's undisciplined diplomatic behavior is interesting for these speculations: if he lied to his own government (and he did, twice, so far, according to this morning's news reports) and is pursuing his own private

foreign policy, then he should be fired so fast it'll make his head swim. Even if he is black and a friend of the president.

Ah, but if the administration is using his 'bad boy' reputation as a cover for secret (now revealed) contacts with the Palestine Liberation Front (which the Israelis obviously believe), then he may "get off" with a severe reprimand from Vance and possibly Carter.

If he keeps his U.N. Ambassador post, you can figure he was acting under orders from the administration and his 'unauthorized' meetings and 'lies' were a cover story if the meetings came out.

8-16-79 So Andrew Young has been fired by Carter. Jimmy had no choice. Young wasn't suited to the job of U.N. Ambassador because of his arrogance, impatience, and egotism. If he had told the truth to the State Department about his meeting with the Palestine Liberation Organization official, he might have kept his job. (Another U.S. diplomatic official, in Vienna, had three meetings with a PLO representative, but he reported back in detail—and honestly. And besides, was probably acting under orders to explore certain possibilities.) Young decided he knew better than anybody, even Carter, and showed he is untrustworthy in the extreme; he was a diplomatic land mine. This whole performance of his suggests a man in the grip of overweening vanity and self-importance, an ideologue (he's an out and out socialist/marxist judging from his statements and behavior) and a man with a subconscious desire to punish others, be a martyr, to fail.

Carter and the country is well rid of Andrew Young in a high diplomatic position. This final screw-up of his resulted in exactly opposite of what he said he wanted—but he would do it again, he says! And Carter has another black eye as a weak, misjudging president.

The hardening judgement by the people is that Carter was a mistake.

8-20-79 Remember the House Assassinations Committee that was investigating the Kennedy and King killings? I learn now, thanks to a reader who sent a clip from the Middleton Press Sampler of Wed. July 11, 1979, that a Washington Post staff writer, George Lardner, Jr., wrote a story detailing how a CIA liaison officer to the Committee had broken into and rifled through the most sensitive evidence files of the Committee. The combination lock safe broken into was reserved for the physical evidence of President Kennedy's assassination.

At first the cover story was that the man had opened the safe and looked through the evidence (before being scared off by early office arrivals) because of personal curiosity.

Later it developed that the CIA had given him 3 lie detector tests which showed he had lied when he denied the breaking and entering and search through the Kennedy evidence, and had lied when he denied that anyone had ordered him to do it.

The man was fired and the CIA has been unsuccessful in discovering who ordered him to do the deed. At least that's what they say.

Apparently the Kennedy assassination case is not quite as dead as most people think. Was the CIA agent about to take evidence, alter it, substitute items?

Somebody is still very worried.

8-26-79 The continued fighting in Iran between the Kurds and the new government is not dying out; the Kurds want self-government and are obviously willing to fight very hard for it now against what they see as a weak central government.

Reports say the Kurds, whose leaders are leftists, have been armed and supplied by Russia.

Consider also the two million arabs in Iran who want more self-government and who are in position to slow or stop oil production and/or delivery. (And have done so to a small degree by bombing two oil pipelines and reducing effective delivery of oil to ports.)

What if the Kurds, desperate, sent sabotage teams into the oil fields?

What if the Kurds made alliance with the arabs?

The religious dictatorship which rul-

es Iran now has shown itself to be rigid, intolerant, absolutist, and as undemocratic as the shah ever was.

Revolutions almost always have a pattern, a cycle, and usually end up with several changes of government before settling down to a viable compromise regime.

I suspect that before 1980 is gone there will be another oil stoppage in Iran, and a new government.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES: The latest issue of ORGANIC GARDENING contains 35 display ads for wood stoves.

Hundreds of people are switching from oil heat to gas heat for their homes because at the moment gas is 44% cheaper per BTU.

Thirteen storm windows for this house cost \$867.00. (In Portland.)

More than 410,000 cords of wood were cut for private use in the national forests of Washington and Oregon in the past year, up 75%

Gold is at new record levels—\$315. per oz., powered by big European and Middle Eastern investors. The 750,000 oz. of gold put up for auction last Tuesday was bought by two European banks: 96% by Dresdner Bank of West Germany, and 4% by Swiss Bank Corp.

For the first time the Swiss government has okayed the use of the Swiss franc as a reserve currency by other governments. (They're gradually cutting loose from the dollar, folks, meaning they won't hold as many dollars out of circulation, meaning those dollars will come home to throw this country into even higher rates of inflation and interest rates and depression.)

Funny, I thought Carter's riverboat trip was a vacation; he turned it into a political tour with speeches at every stop (even in the wee hours of the morning) and etc. Now he has to go to Camp David to rest from his "vacation."

In the meantime, while Carter floated down the river, the real powers in the government dealt in a Washington meeting with the problems inherent in the PLO/Young/Israel blowup. And then v.p. Mondale went off to China to make deals in behalf of Rockefeller & Co. (Sen. Henry Jackson has been in China for three weeks, doing the same thing.)

8-28-79 Mondale, in China, has promised \$2 billion in U.S. aid—in the form of Export-Import Bank credits (that means the Bank insures American companies against loss in trading with China. The Ex-Im Bank is funded and its "insurance" guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury.) and by certifying that China is a 'friendly country' not part of an international communist conspiracy to dominate the world. Congress must give its okay for China to get most-favored-nation status and thus special privileges as to tariff cuts. That will be pushed in Congress by the administration soon. Also, the Carter/Rockefeller administration will seek congressional approval this year "to encourage American businessmen to invest in China—by providing guarantees and the insurance of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation."

The OPIC is another government-no-risk sweetheart operation created for the big banks and corporations. The taxpayer picks up the tab for any of their losses, the poor dears.

There was a devastating letter from a Harry Moffat in the OREGONIAN today which I am taking the liberty of reprinting.

'To the Editor: Ten years ago, an ounce of gold could buy between 14 and 15 barrels of oil. Today, an ounce of gold will still buy between 14 and 15 barrels of oil.

'That tells us that, in terms of the gold standard, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries hasn't raised the price of oil by even five cents. It also tells us that the government has been steadily debasing the currency. No wonder OPEC is thinking of switching to currency more responsibly administered in which to price its product.'

'Why blame OPEC when we have only ourselves to blame?'

Today the Chase-Manhattan Bank raised its prime rate to 12%, and other banks are joining the move. This is an all-time high for the prime rate. But you may recall I predicted the prime would go from 12-15% this time, before the economy collapsed.

The Federal Reserve is really tightening the credit valve, and a credit crunch seems likely soon.

MOVIE REVIEWS

KING & FRAT (R)

is the runaway winner of the Most Repulsive Movie of the Year Award. A quickie trading on the success of ANIMAL HOUSE, it is a constant affront of fart and shit and slob so-called humor. The lowlight of the film is the Fart Contest, though the opening segments of "mooning" (showing ass to passersby from an auto) are a close second.

The lead character, Grossout, is a lowest class copying of the John Belushi role in ANIMAL HOUSE, with utterly no redeeming qualities.

The plot consists of a neanderthaler frat house in conflict with the authoritarian Dean of Men at Yellowstream University.

On the other hand, the film is An Experience and you may want to see it for the disgust and the Wither American Culture thoughts it will inspire.

SEX GROOVE TUBE (R)

is about a young woman "vampire" who, once a month, seeks out a man and sucks him to death... somehow. The corpse always has a frozen grin, and a permanent erection.

It's for laughs and sex, as two bumbling detectives and a special operative investigate the murders. Lots of simulated oral and regular sex, and lots of nudity.

Harry Reems plays the special operative, and it is he who kills the girl "vampire" by driving his 18" silver penis into her...uh..."heart".

It's at a professional level of acting and filming of most Pussycat Theaters level of films. A few years ago this would have been an X-rated... or XX movie. It's amusing and diverting. Whatthehell.

JACK THE RIPPER (R)

approaches Grand Guignol realism, with severed hands, eyeballs, deeply gashed abdomens...as Jack (in this historically inaccurate film) goes about his compulsive psychosexual abductions and murders of pretty young London prostitutes/entertainers.

The interest for me was primarily Klaus Kinski, who played Jack. He's a brooding, impressive actor.

The film was made in Germany and

later dubbed in English.

8-31-79 The news that the Soviets have placed at least 2-3000 soldiers in Cuba is ominous, and will present President Carter with another test of his "manhood" and a probable further eroding of his image. 'Gutless' and 'cowardly' will be heard...as he and his State Department decide the Russian troops do not present any real threat to the United States.

Well, of course not. The troops are in Cuba to help train Marxist cadres from various South and Central American countries for revolutionary purposes. Could be some of the Russians will turn up in those countries for on-the-spot combat advising of locals.

Does anybody remember the Monroe Doctrine?

The aim of Russia in Iran is to further undermine and erode Khomeini's power and authority. They are using the PLO to arm various rebellious elements, and are setting up their Marxist cells for a classic leftist/Marxist taking-of-power.

The Russians want Iran's oil. Their strategy is to control Iran's oil for use by Eastern Europe and Russia (and to that end have built an extensive deep-water port in Albania for off-loading tankers and storage of crude. A pipeline is being built.) And while they would continue to sell oil to the West, the volume would be less, and there might be subtle or blatant strings attached.

From Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and all other near-east OPEC nations are increasingly vulnerable.

Worldwide, Russia is making tremendous advances into Western/USA spheres of influence. Why are they being unopposed?

About the economy: From the pattern shown by the big chain stores' sales recently, Americans are "trading down" to the cheaper stores—from Sears and Wards to Woolworth and K-Mart. And even those are showing only sales equal to inflation—13% gains. Soon even K-Mart and Woolworth will show unit sales de-

clines.

The not-often-understood fact about "inflation" is that the monthly increases of the Cost of Living of about 1% (12-13% on a yearly basis) reflect two main forces: real-cost increases caused by higher energy and raw material costs, and a degree of devaluation of the dollar caused by increasing debt and by increasing amounts of overseas dollar holdings being used to buy stronger currencies, gold, land, other tangibles. Those dollars come home to swell the money supply and further devalue the currency and raise the general price level of goods and services.

We have "exported" our inflation in the Sixties and it is being "imported" now.

I note with a wry smile that Turkey has been required to assign its 2.2 billion dollar debt to foreign (mostly USA) banks to its central bank. The central bank has a three year grace period, then four more years in which to pay the debts. In the meanwhile Turkey will get some further hundreds of millions of dollars in loans from the World Bank, the I.M.F. and etc. to tide it over...

This is all simply a device to keep those U.S. private bank loans "alive" on the books. That 2.2 billion is gone, lost, and will never be repaid. Unless by the U.S. Treasury to save the banks involved.

The recession will begin to bite hard soon, as inventories continue to pile up and layoffs are forced and as businesses cut back operations. That will further curtail buying by the public and the ominous debt structure—private and corporate—will begin to cause all kinds of problems as it starts to crumble.

I recently received for review a copy of THE COMING REAL ESTATE CRASH by John Wesley English and Gray Emerson Cardiff. (Arlington House, \$12.95)

The authors are utterly convincing as they describe past booms and busts in real estate in this country: Chicago, Florida, California, the apartment boom that went "unadvertised" in its crash in the early-mid 70s...

They show the patterns, the anatomy

of the cycles, and examine in depth the current boom—and—almost—here bust in real estate nationwide.

There are many graphs and analyses, none especially technical or beyond the average person.

Their analysis tells them that the speculative blow-off in real estate, especially in new and used-home prices, is over, but not generally known yet. The factors supporting the boom are fading or gone—the population of couples able and willing to buy, the tax advantages, availability of land, inflation... Soon, they say, a contraction of ability to-buy will panic the hordes of speculators who have bought up houses and are waiting for suckers to pay them tremendous profits. Soon thousands of houses will be on the market at lower prices, and soon the average market value of owned homes will sink, drastically (up to 50%) cutting the net worth of owners, limiting their credit resources, setting up contractions in loans, boosting defaults, bankruptcies, causing an awful lot of banks and S&Ls to fail.

To save the deteriorating situation the government might panic and besides acting as a guarantor of last resort for banks and S&Ls, feel it necessary to run tremendous federal deficits to pump up the money supply and get money-to-pay-bills to people, thus creating, in a year, terrible inflation and subsequent problems inherent in double-triple-digit devaluations of the currency.

The authors hope the govt. has the guts and good sense to let the shake-out run its course, within limits.

They have provided strategies for preserving your equity and profits that are tied up in your home. These involve selling your home NOW and investing in various alternate forms of wealth—stocks, bonds, golds, etc., while housing collapses and prices tumble. THEN you can buy a fine, better home for much less, and have money left over besides. You rent a home (maybe even your formerly-owned home) in the interim.

It makes sense, but a family home, especially one in the family for a generation or two, is more than a cold-blooded investment or pile of bricks and lumber to be sold cold-bloodedly for tactical advantage.

I've put thousands of hours of work into this place, I've gotten it almost

the way I want it...it's all paid for, and I consider it an island of security and comfort in a sea of social, political and economic madness.

Nevertheless, this book, as expensive as it is, is selling fast, with (I am told by its editor) 10,000 sold, 20,000 in print, and plans for a third printing with a 4000 copy order from 8. Dalton bookstores. Its sale and its message will obviously further trigger the people who read it to either sell now or not buy now real estate, thus giving the crash a slight push.

9-6-79 The backyard neighbors invited me over to harvest their grape crop, and I did so, garnering a two-bucket bonanza. I'll make wine from the grapes—an interesting experiment, since I've never done it with "live" grapes before—and share what results with them.

My gardens are a shambles, alas, with weeds galore and plans delayed due to my drive to get this house and its trim painted and caulked and etc. It's been raining, too, for two weeks, which has set me way back...and let me do a lot of reading for review in SFR and GALAXY. Although I wonder if GALAXY is still alive, failing any call for another book review column after three or four months.

Further Signs of the Times: A local chain of movie theaters has proclaimed an even lower "Economy Hour" admission price: \$1.00 per person from 5 to 6 PM, at any of their walk-in theaters. And these are first-run shows, folks.

The other night I saw the first TV ad in prime time on a network, for a wood stove: the Jotul.

Yuk, Yuk. A random-sample long-term study in Holland of children who used fluorides to combat tooth decay, compared to a control group who did not use fluorides, showed no difference in caries. The kids were matched as to sugar intake and toothbrushing habits, even as to father's occupation. The conclusion was that 'fluoride products are of dubious value in reducing dental caries.'

So it goes.

Something fishy is developing in the precious metals and foreign exchange markets.

Today it was revealed that in May; June and July the Federal Reserve spent \$5½ billions "stabilizing" the foreign exchange markets in order to prevent a steep fall in the international value of the dollar...in other words to prevent another run on the dollar.

That cost us 2/3rds of our international credit with Germany and Switzerland.

Since the dollar is now, today, in another decline in all the markets, I assume the Fed is out of credit and cannot do much more to stop the slide.

In the past few weeks precious metals have boomed, with gold and silver at new highs almost every week, with word spreading that the demand is coming from Arabs and corporations.

I suspect that this till now hidden dollar crisis is what forced Carter to reshuffle his cabinet; he did it under pressure/orders in order to get Miller out of the Fed and Volcker in. Volcker is now trying desperately to defend the dollar by tightening money supply, raising interest rates...

But on the horizon is another series of huge government deficits as this country spends to feed and house the increasing number of poor and unemployed created by a world-wide depression, and to increase its defense capability in the face of increasingly arrogant moves by the Russians all over the world.

The current devaluation of the dollar simply means higher prices—a lower standard of living—in this country. And the Arabs and others realize that the dollar will—in the floating-rate world of foreign exchanges—float lower and lower, and they are refusing to hold dollars...as prudent Americans are refusing to hold them.

There is talk now of giving the small saver a break by exempting the first \$100. of interest of savings accounts from taxes. Amazing! This would mean the small saver would not be penalized by the IRS for saving at 5½% interest rates. With the dollar losing value at 10% yearly rates I suppose the authorities figure a 4½% loss per year is enough of a "hidden tax" for the suckers to bear.

#Jimmy Carter is looking more and more like an irrelevant president, as he seems to be absent from the decision-making and up-front policy statements concerning those 3000 Russian combat troops in Cuba.

Sec. of State Vance is prominent, as are Senators Church, Baker, and others. But Carter... He is tagged as a figurehead who plays softball with convicts and fights off "killer bunnies" when fishing.

The Rockefellers are going to retire Carter, obviously. It'll be interesting to see who they want to succeed him. In any case the next president will be a tool of the megafortunes which really own and rule this country.

A senator suggested (and I agree) that a likely purpose of those Russian combat troops in Cuba is to guard a Russian base which contains nuclear bombs.

About fifteen years ago President Kennedy learned of atomic warhead missiles being placed in Cuba, and forced them out. But now with this nation in decline I wonder if President Carter has an equal amount of guts?

Over the years the arms policy of this nation has been to give up superiority (because it cost too much and after Vietnam the people didn't have the will or the guts for real world dominance) and settle for a "balance of terror" with Russia. Except that Russia has been unrelenting in its drive for superiority and world dominance, and is not loathe to use its power nakedly and sometimes crudely.

This is a testing time for us and for our ruling elite. If the Russians are allowed to attain clear tactical and strategic superiority over the United States, the consequences will follow in every geo-political, social and cultural and especially economic sphere...as our allies increasingly rearrange their loyalties and policies.

9-7-79 The economic noose is tightening as today's news tells us: the wholesale price index rose 1.2% (13.4% at a yearly rate) which assures a 13% "inflation" rate on the retail level for at least until Christmas.

Unemployment as of the middle of

August was 6%, up from 5.7%. And, the final blow—the big New York banks, responding to a near-record rate of loan demand (because cash-flow is down, sales are down, corporations need to borrow to keep going) have raised the prime lending rate to 12% from 12%. A huge jump.

And, surprise to me, Sen. Edward Kennedy has let it be known that his mother and wife have okayed his running for president if he wants to.

This is a clear signal that should give his "draft Kennedy" supporters all over the country a GO AHEAD.

So you can expect Kennedy to give lip service to Carter until it is too clear that Carter cannot win the nomination or chooses not to run.

This leaves Gov. Brown up shit creek—and gives the Republicans notice that they must nominate their best man.

It also suggests to me that Kennedy has made his peace with the money elite and will appoint their men to cabinet and other key government posts, if he is elected.

Wm. Safire, in his column today, says the Russian combat troops in Cuba are there to guard a top secret Russian electronic monitoring (of USA) base.

Carter has known of this since June and hasn't done anything about it; in fact he signed the SALT II treaty. Now, if he makes a fuss about the combat troops and demands they leave, the Russians will demand a quid pro quo of some kind—probably the passage of the SALT II treaty be the senate. (And they'll still keep some combat troops in Cuba as "advisors".) And they'll still have the advanced electronic spy base.

But if Carter (and, do not forget, he is only following orders from Vance, Brzezinski, Brown and other Tri-Lateralist fellow travelers/agents of the power elite) does not face up to the Russians...then for sure the entering wedge will be exploited—Carter & Co. will be perceived as gutless—and for sure atomic bombs will go to Cuba, if they haven't already.

We are witnessing the decline and fall of the American empire. I never was in favor of an American empire, but

it had some trickle-down benefits for the average citizen. Now the penalties of the erosion and collapse, in the next twenty years or so, will fall on us. Screwed again!

9-11-79 The Russian-troops-in-Cuba situation continues to explode all over Carter & Co., giving the impression that he and his policy are weak, are cowardly, and that their greatest concern is to not face the question of a Russian build-up in Cuba and a Russian build-up of Cuban power.

Carter and his advisors are trying to soft-pedal the facts and implications, but Senators are issuing warnings that this dire trend must be stopped.

The Russians are often ham-handed, clumsy, stupid in their use of power, but they use it! They want, still, to dominate the world, to make it a socialist paradise, and the failure of nerve and the failure in Vietnam by the United States has allowed them to get a leg up. The catastrophic (maybe inevitable) economic policies followed by the USA till today is another reason why the West is so crippled. We have degraded the once-vaunted U.S. \$ until it is a ghost, a fraud, and a con game which cannot be sustained. All the chickens are coming home to roost.

There may soon be a flood of dollars coming home from Europe and the rest of the world, as our high and going higher interest rates impells Eurodollar bond holders to sell and buy either gold or short-term high-yield American paper. Either way those billions (up to 350 billions, some say 700 billions) will act to drive up prices in this country in a flood of inflation of the money supply. 20-25% inflation rates will trigger massive financial/social consequence.

We in this country enjoyed the benefits of creating and spending all those dollars and then sending them overseas to sit in foreign countries to avoid their inflationary effects here.

The Europeans caught on to the game, stopped it, have created their own gold-backed reserve currency, and

we are now unable to export our inflation anymore. We may be about to import our past massive currency excesses.

Kennedy is going to take the presidency away from Carter in a few months. Some loyal Carter politicians are saying that Kennedy would split the Democratic party if he tries for the nomination. No, by next January Carter's political support will have melted to almost zero. The Democrats will have to dump him in order to keep him from dragging the party down with him; too many senators and representatives would be dumped by the voters. But with KENNEDY! Ah, he could save them!

This puts pressure on the Republicans. Who to run against Kennedy? A clear-cut choice of policies and viewpoints would be Reagan vs. Kennedy... but in a recession/depression atmosphere, the voters will cast all to the winds and vote for the statist—Kennedy—and expect him and the obliging federal government to save them from the disasters created by previous statist like Kennedy and the government. And behind it all sit the international megafortunes, sitting on perhaps trillions of \$ of gold, oil, etc., waiting for the time to come back into this country from their foreign banking bases, and buy up the rest of the country and politicians at low, low, distress prices.

Suddenly! We will have a gold-backed currency, minimal or no inflation, and low taxes! But everyone will be a slave. We may have a form of dictatorship—a president who rules by decree. A tame, rubber stamp congress.

Betcha before it is all over gold will sell for close to \$1,000. per oz. (And it probably will be illegal for citizens to own it—again.)

Another scenario is the further encroachment of Russia, a forced showdown, at atomic war.

Another possibility is a desperate ruling class forcing us to invest even greater amounts of money in arms, achieving a stand-off (even a few victories) with Russia, and sinking into an endless stagnation of lower and lower living standards.

The alternate future is the continuing failure of nerve by the ruling class and the people until Russia is so strong and we so weak and raddled with inflation and social unrest that we cannot resist the Soviet pressure and become Sovietized.

Jesus, there must be some good news around...some optimism...

Well, at least we know what to expect—and can try to protect ourselves as much as possible.

TV_____

THE LAZARUS SYNDROME (ABC) is a show whose title is more exciting than the opening episode. A black nurse is raped and the hospital's head doctor (who seems to do nothing but observe operations and be nice and considerate) gets involved because they were lovers thirty years before. Mild complications with wife. The show had all the excitement of a wet noodle. No tension.

Louis Gossett, Jr. is a fine actor wasted.

Prognosis: terminal. Will be replaced in January.

THREE'S COMPANY is solid and will be a hit again this year.

TAXI grows on one. The honest humor and comedic acting are fine. It takes real life and laughs at and with it. Another hit year. Judd Hirsch is a diamond actor—very fine.

ANGIE wastes Donna Pescow in a dumb sitcom. The show is too absurd, unrealistic. This will be its last year.

9-12-79 Rep. Al Ullman and Sen. Long are signalling a major change in U.S. taxes—to a Value Added Tax (VAT) from too high income, social security and investment taxes. Their plan (the plan of the financial elite) is to put in place a 10% VAT and cut other taxes. This shift would inhibit consumption and reward saving and investment, which would reverse the present tax setup which rewards spending and punishes saving and investing.

This tax policy change attempt is a good idea to start rebuilding the aging production facilities in basic industries and to make more research and development possible. Clearly the best way to do it is to cut income and profit taxes, but our welfare state needs huge portions of our incomes, and robbing the saver and the property owner has gone as far as it can go without disastrous consequences. So—VAT is on the way.

The importance and power of President Carter in his own administration is shown in this paragraph from a NEW YORK TIMES story today:

'Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, who met Monday with Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin of the Soviet Union, reported to Defense Secretary Harold Brown; Adm. Stansfield Turner, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency; and Zbigniew Brzezinski, the national security advisor, at a morning meeting at the White House. Brzezinski then informed President Carter.'

The Rockefeller men decide, and then one of them informs the klutz of a president what they decided. The president is not needed, wanted or allowed to attend these high level very important meetings. He and his Georgia cadre of old boys are dead in the water. Ignored except for courtesy calls and ceremonial affairs.

Because of oil field problems with workers and dock problems with workers, Iran's oil production and shipping is now down to 2.1 million barrels a day. It used to be 6 million per day.

9-18-79 The news a few days ago that the Israeli government had decided to allow jews to buy any arab-owned land for sale in the West Bank and Gaza Strip confirms my opinion voiced some time ago that Israeli will never give those "occupied lands" back to the control of either Jordan, Egypt or the Palestinians.

It looks as though the final solution to the problem is in sight—the Israelis will simply, over a period of time, buy those areas from the owners. A huge amount of money will be needed, but American and European jews will

contribute heavily, perhaps becoming land-owners in absentia, or buying stock or bonds in land-buying corporations.

There will be stories of forced sales and force used to prevent sales. But it is clear to me that eventually Jews will own a majority of that land and will have a majority in the population. THEN a plebiscite will be held... and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will vote to become part of Israel. (And maybe by then the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon will be added in due time by the same process.)

Gold rose to \$275 per ounce today. This is a panic-buying market, as owners of paper money are more and more desperate to get out of paper and into precious metals. (Silver went to \$18 per ounce. A year ago it was under \$5.)

People with money see, I imagine, a worldwide recession/depression in the works and expect governments to inflate desperately to keep people eating, housed, employed, and to keep the debt bubble from collapsing and taking with it all fixed obligations—like pensions—and putting hordes of politicians out of office. They see, too, that the next President of the United States will be Ted Kennedy who is an out and out Liberal who will further take us down the road to statism of the worst kind, and serfdom for most people.

Democratic politicians are now deserting Jimmy Carter in droves, seeing him as a sure loser and a millstone around the necks of other incumbents.

Nigeria is raising its price for a barrel of its high-grade oil \$3-\$5, beginning Oct. 1. Nigeria sells us 15% of our oil imports.

September is supposed to be the last month Saudi Arabia will pump 9.5 million barrels of oil per day, up from 8.5 million in June. That drop, if allowed, will probably cause the spot price for oil to rise and trigger more gas and oil price increases in this country and around the world, making the recession worse.

The September 17 SPOTLIGHT reports a build-up of arms and training (by Cubans) in South Yemen, a communist/leftist state, next door to the strategic Sultanate of Oman.

'Tiny Oman is one of the two nations—Iran is the other—which control access to the vital Straits of Hormuz, the narrow waterway through which all Middle Eastern oil—two thirds of the world's supply—must be shipped on its way to the U.S. and Europe.

'Now, according to recent CIA reports, a task-force of 1700 battle-hardened Cuban guerrilla veterans are training thousands of Communist insurgents in South Yemen, at Haus, Mukaila, and Al Gheidha just across the border from Oman. Their mission: to overthrow the weak, pro-Western regime of Oman's Sultan Qabous and to block the Straits of Hormuz—thereby effectively paralyzing the industry and economy of the entire Western world.

'The SPOTLIGHT can now confirm, on reliable information, that in deepest secrecy on presidential orders, the Pentagon has already begun to airlift hand-picked commando and amphibious warfare units to a hidden base on the secluded island of Masirah just off the southeast coast of the Arabian Peninsula, where Cuban-instigated armed conflict now threatens to explode at any moment.'

The above is also a reason why big money is going into gold, from the Middle East.

I rather think the objective, if the Sultanate of Oman can be taken over by a Communist force, is not to close the Straits of Hormuz but to hold it hostage, to use the ability to close the Straits as a foreign policy lever by Russia. An actual closing of the Straits would bring instant military intervention by the U.S. and probably Europe. Unless Russia is ready to throw its own forces into the battle and bring us all to the brink of an atomic war, I don't see that happening. Too, they may wish to wait until they can take over Iran, which sits on the other side of the Straits.

#Remember when 6% interest was against the law and considered usury? Remember when the loan-shark loan rate of 10% was heinous?

The WALL STREET JOURNAL reports a softening in resales of homes—low demand, lowering prices. I suspect the

real estate boom is beginning to bust.

SFR is beginning to get onto a lot of mailing list, probably because it has a second class mailing permit. This puts SFR in a class with The Big Boys in most government minds, and hence worthy of all kinds of government mailings.

Yesterday I got a "1980 Census Information Kit" which consists of advance copies of the 1980 Census form which will be sent to every household in the country. With the forms is a clutch of pages devoted to justifying the census and the questions you will be 'required' to answer.

'Required' means if you throw the form away someone eventually will show up at your door and personally ask the questions. It is not mentioned, but you could be forced (on pain of fine and imprisonment) to answer.

There are repeated assurances that none of the information you provide will be given to or provided or etc. to any other government arm or agency. Only sworn employees of the Census Bureau will have access to your completed form and the information it contains. (But what if an IRS or Justice Dept. agent is detached for temporary service with the Census Bureau? He might be interested in certain New Jersey forms...or Los Angeles forms...

The forms are put on microfilm, and then in due time the original forms are destroyed. But the microfilmed copies are kept!

Here are some of the information areas you'll be required to fill in for the government:

You'll have to detail your relationship with every member of the household: Age; marital status; Spanish or Hispanic descent?; extent of schooling and completed grade; value of your home or condominium?; how much rent do you pay?; when the person(s) listed above moved into the house/condo?; how much did your gas, oil or heating cost per month?; how much does the water cost?; do you have a telephone; an air conditioner; a car or cars?; how many trucks?; how much were your real estate taxes last year?; how much do you pay for insurance?; do you have a mortgage, a second mortgage?; how much do you pay per

month on the debt?; and about the people or person who lives with you... name; a citizen; when did this person come to stay?; does he/she speak a language other than English at home?; what language?; how well does he/she speak English?; what is his/her ancestry?; did this person live in your house five years ago?; where did this person live five years ago?; does this person have a physical or mental disability?; if a woman, how many babies has she had; when?; has she been married more than once?; when?; why did the first marriage end?; did this person work at any time last week?; how many hours, last week?; where did he/she work (exact location)...

This census form goes on and on... Has this person been absent from work last week?; why?; could he/she have taken a job last week?; when did he/she last work (even for a few days)?; how many weeks worked in 1979; how many hours per week?; from what source and how much income was earned last year by this person? (detailed, exact amounts required).

They want to know everything about your personal and financial life. Every census becomes more exacting, nosy, intrusive and arrogant. The federal government wants a dossier on each and every person living in this country.

And as for the privacy of those dossiers—Congress can, any time it wants, pass a new law (buried in an obscure bill nobody pays any attention to) which makes the dossiers available to various people or agencies with a "need to know".

One aspect about this census form and its instructions: nowhere does it say that your answers must be true; only that the questions be answered. The task of checking the truthfulness of any significant number of these census forms would be monumental and actually impossible.

I count 110 questions in the form.

I would suggest that a good portion of the low-income, low-intelligence, low-socially motivated people in this country, many of them with something to hide, and most of them disbelieving of the "privacy" assurances, will actively not cooperate with the government snoopers.

There will also be a lot of working class and middle class lying in the forms, and some active resistance.

The Census will begin officially on Tuesday, April 1, 1980.

9-22-79 There are reports that AT&T's Bell Telephone laboratories in New Jersey have developed a super battery. It is a lithium-vanadium disulfide battery of great efficiency, of such potential as to revolutionize the energy structure of the world.

The main problem is assuring enough lithium and vanadium for mass production and working out maximum applications and marketing. (Also working out its effects on the energy toes of the giant oil companies and oil banks.) For these reasons, the new battery may be put on the back shelf for a number of years. And these reasons may explain why its existence is known to the foreign technical press and international financial circles, but is not being mentioned in the mass media of this country (with the exception of some ultra-conservative small-circulation publications and the radical left publications...in short, the underground, counter-culture press.)

9-26-79 Edward Kennedy made a pre-campaign speech last night—I just heard an excerpt on the radio news: he railed against high interest rates which are keeping some people from buying a house, and against high oil/gasoline prices which he said were a result of decontrol of oil prices by Carter.

I assume he wants to put controls back on oil and wants to bring down interest rates by controls. And we all know he wants to nationalize the medical insurance industry (and thus the doctors and hospitals which would be forced to work under the cradle-to-grave health insurance plan he envisions).

Ted Kennedy is a Liberal; he still believes in federal controls as solutions, just when everyone else is beginning to see federal controls as problems.

He is emotionally and intellectually capable of piling control after control onto this country and its citizens in order to make previous unworkable con-

trols work...until we have total wage-price-profit-interest-currency controls, chronic shortages, chronic gas lines, food lines, etc, and 25% inflation.

The scenario is this: Kennedy has publically keyed his decision to enter the primaries and contest Carter for the Democratic presidential nomination on the state of the economy in November.

It is a lead-pipe cinch the economy will be staggering by then, with interest rates still very high, with inflation still over 10% per year, and with unemployment rising.

He will run against Carter, win, and, in a year of worsening economy, win big! Reagan will be swamped.

Kennedy will have a "mandate" for strong federal action, and will coat-tail into office a significant number of Liberal senators and representatives. He will seek and will be given great powers to Do Things—standby wage-price-profit controls, gas rationing controls, some powers over the currency/credit of the nation formerly exercised by the Federal Reserve.

He will face a massive debt liquidation problem, deflation, massive unemployment—the Great Depression all over again.

And Ted Kennedy will over his 8 years in office so set-in-concrete the controls and dependencies of the people that freedom as we know it today will have gone forever, short of an armed rebellion or invasion or total breakdown of the nation into sectional independent kingdoms, etc.

American power in the world will shrivel, the dollar will be degraded to almost nothing—as we feel contempt for the Lira and those other currencies valued at one or two cents now; so will others sneer at the worthless American dollar...even more than they are curling their lips now.

Gold, if we are allowed to own it, will be worth \$1,000. per oz.

SCIENCE NEWS (Sept. 15, 1979) reports that the Brazilian copa-iba tree when tapped gives a stream of golden oil which can be used as-is in a diesel engine.