

ART BUCHWALD

9/25/65

## 3 Cheers for Red, White and Black

WASHINGTON—Word has just come in from West Germany that many of the German people are getting tired of being shown as heavies in World War II. They feel it's about time motion pictures stopped showing the Germans in a bad light and that everyone forgot about their past mistakes.

I couldn't agree with them more. The German people have suffered enough at the hands of Warner Bros. and MGM.

One of the main problems in the previous war movies is that the Nazis are played by such disagreeable types. I think we should pay more attention to casting. In the new war pictures, we should cast Pat Boone, Pat O'Brien or Jimmy Stewart as the SS men, and Otto Preminger, Paul Lukas and Helmut Dantine as the American GIs.

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Once you solve the casting problem, you have to think about plot. First, we must get away from the stereotyped German U-Boat commander. I see a picture where Pat Boone is commander of a German U-Boat. He is out searching for prey.

His executive officer, played by Lawrence Welk, says, "Sir, I've got a target in the periscope."

Boone grabs the periscope and says, "It's the Athenia, a passenger ship."

Welk says, "When should we fire?"

Boone pulls the periscope down. "We can't. There are women and children aboard."

"But they've seen us. They'll radio our position."

"I'd rather risk getting sunk than torpedo a ship with civilians aboard. Hitler would want it that way."

Another image we must change is that of the role of the Gestapo in World War II.

We would show Gestapo headquarters in Paris



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with Bing Crosby playing the head of the Gestapo. They have just brought in Pierre Le Loup, head of the entire French Resistance.

Crosby says, "Loup, we want the list of every resistance fighter in France."

Pierre Le Loup says, "You'll never get it out of me."

"We have ways of getting things out of people." Crosby rings a buzzer and Fred MacMurray comes in. Crosby says to Fred MacMurray, "He doesn't seem to be in the mood to talk."

MacMurray replies, "well, there's nothing we can do about it. If we lay a finger on him, we'll have to answer to Himmler for police brutality."

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The other standard plot that has been showing the Germans in a bad light has to do with prisoner of war camps. A new version, which could be called "Stalag Hilton," would star Henry Fonda as the camp commandant.

Doris Day would play his wife, who rolls bandages for the Jewish prisoners in the hospital.

Glenn Ford, the SS sergeant, rushes in, shouts, "The prisoners are escaping. Herr Commandant."

"Don't talk to me," Fonda says. "I'm in on the July '44 plot."

And Ford says, "Aren't we all?"

ART BUCHWALD

L.A.F. - 8/13/66

## Candidates Eschew Johnson and Kennedy

WASHINGTON — One of the problems of this election year is the emphasis placed on who is Robert Kennedy's man and who is President Johnson's man in a local contest. When a Robert Kennedy man is defeated in a primary, it is considered a blow to the Kennedy machine. When a Johnson man loses, it is a defeat for the President's policies in Vietnam.

Even a coroner's election has national implications for the politically starved press, and we can expect to see more read into the results of the 1966 elections than the forefathers of the Democratic Party ever dreamed of.

If the truth be known, many of the local candidates are trying to disassociate themselves from both Kennedy and President Johnson, and they live in fear that either of these national figures will show up and campaign for them. But what do you do when you get a telephone call from Washington late at night at your local campaign headquarters?

"It's the President," the campaign manager whispers holding his hand over the phone.

"Tell him I'm out making a speech," the candidate says.

"Congressman Klinker is out campaigning, sir. He should be back in a couple of hours. Oh, you'd like to come out and make a few speeches for him?"

"Tell him with the airline strike he can't get here," the candidate says.

### No Rooms Available

"You forgot he has his own airplane," the campaign manager says.

"Tell him it's impossible to get a hotel room. There's a Shriner's convention in town."

"Sir, this is the congressman's campaign manager and I know he'll

be thrilled with your decision. But our last poll shows the congressman will be a shoo-in and we feel it might be better if you campaigned for somebody who really needed it."

The campaign manager turns to the candidate. "He says he has nothing to do next weekend and he thought he'd like to visit our part of the state just to keep his hand in."

"Tell him next weekend is very bad. They're expecting tornadoes out here."

The campaign manager speaks into the phone again. "Yes, sir, I am still here. You'd be willing to appear at a fund-raising dinner? Well, I know this is hard to believe, but we have too much money now. We're going to have to give some back. Oh, you would be? Just a minute." He turns to the congressman.

### Speech on Vietnam

"He said he'd like to give a major policy speech on Vietnam in your district."

"Oh, no." The candidate holds his head. "Tell him he'll be picketed."

The campaign manager turns to the phone. "Yes, sir." He whispers, "He says if you don't want a speech on Vietnam, how about a humdinger on civil rights?"

"Tell him we've got the civil rights vote."

"Yes, sir. Well, I'll have the congressman call you as soon as he comes back. We're most grateful, sir." The campaign manager hangs up.

The campaign manager says, "What are we going to do now?"

"Let's not panic," the candidate says.

The phone rings again and the campaign manager picks it up. "Who?" He turns to the candidate. "It's Robert Kennedy. He says he has nothing to do next weekend and would like to visit our part of the state."

"OK," the congressman says, "let's panic."



ART BUCHWALD

WAT 9/2/65

## The Horn Blows Up at Midnight

WASHINGTON—Many young American men who weren't too interested in marriage suddenly found themselves in love last week when a Presidential executive order was issued which said that anyone of draft age who married after midnight on Aug. 26 would be eligible for the draft on the same basis as a bachelor.

Unfortunately the order came out so fast that very few couples were able to get to the church on time and many of the young men who proposed have now had second thoughts.

"Hello, Shirley. This is Harold. I'm fine. How are you? . . . You're excited? That's nice. Shirley, what I wanted to say is . . .

Sure, I want to hear about your wedding dress. It's white . . . uh, huh. And it has lace and there's a satin bow in the back . . . That sounds like some dress. As a matter of fact, that's what I called you about . . .

No, I haven't bought my suit yet . . . I was holding off. Shirley, I don't know how to say this . . .

Will you listen, Shirley? The invitations? OK, let me hear it . . . How many are you sending out, Shirley? One hundred and twenty? . . .

"It already went to the printers? . . . Listen, Shirley. We're living in perilous times . . . I didn't say it. President Johnson said it. I'm just quoting him, and when I asked you to marry me I didn't know how perilous they were . . .

Hello, Shirley, are you still there? . . . Of course I love you . . . As much as the other night? That's what I called about.

"Maybe we got carried away a little, Shirley . . . a guy says a lot of things at night that he would have never said in the daytime . . . I meant every bit of it except the one part . . . Shirley, what are you yelling for? We should be able to discuss this like mature people . . . Which part didn't I mean? . . . I know this is going to sound funny, but the part I'm not sure about is when I said, 'Shirley, will you marry me?'

"What are you crying for? Try to understand my side of it . . . When I proposed to you, Shirley, I thought I would stay at home and we would raise a family and I wouldn't have to go into the Army, and we would live as civilians happily ever after . . .

"Look, this is as much a blow to me as it is to you. Did I know President Johnson was going to draft me after I got married? . . . How can you say I was going to marry you just to stay out of the Army? . . . What basis do you have for such a statement? . . .

"That's how you interpret it, but I want you to know, Shirley, I'm thinking of you . . . I don't want you sitting home nights wondering where I am, what I'm doing, and that sort of thing. It's me that's making the sacrifice . . . You shouldn't talk that way to somebody who's about to serve his country . . . No, I don't want to speak to your father. . .

"Mr. Potts? . . . No, sir, I really don't know what she's crying about. It's a little misunderstanding . . . You might call it a lover's quarrel . . . Well, Sir, you see, I want to serve my country and do my share to defeat Godless communism . . . Shirley, on the other hand, wants me to get married . . . Yes, I did ask her to marry me, but that was before the Presidential executive order . . . I don't think you should call me a draft-dodger even if she is your daughter . . . And furthermore, I'm glad I discovered her attitude before I married her. It all could have been a terrible mistake."

ART BUCHWALD

# 1, 2 GIs in View, 3, 4 Many More?

WASHINGTON—The American government announced today that 1,000 U.S. troops have just landed in South Vietnam. These 5,000 men will be used to protect airfields and vital installations around Saigon, though officials did not rule out that the 15,000 combat-ready soldiers supported by 10,000 aviation personnel would be used to take the fight to the enemy.

An Army spokesman said the 35,000-troop landing was carried out by plane and sea and that the 50,000-man force, which did not include an armored division, landed earlier in the day and would for the moment constitute enough men to handle the situation. A defense department spokesman said:

"If in the near future we discovered that these 150,000 men are not enough, we will send in more troops, but it is unlikely, as 200,000 GIs should be sufficient under present fighting conditions."

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A newspaperman asked if the sending of 300,000 fresh troops at this time meant that the U.S. "was escalating the war."

"No," he replied, "It means no such thing. We always intended to send in 400,000 troops and this is just part of a military buildup. In a guerrilla war, it is assumed the ratio of troops to the guerrillas is 10 to 1. Since we estimate that there are now 50,000 guerrillas in South Vietnam, our decision to send in 500,000 more soldiers is not unrealistic."

Another reporter asked if the United States intended to get bogged down in a ground war in South Vietnam, something that every American military leader had advised against.

"The answer to your question is negative," the spokesman said. "Our job from the beginning has been to give as much support to the South Vietnamese Army as we possibly can. With the arrival of these 700,000 GIs, we can release the South Vietnamese army for major missions."

"Isn't it true that the South Vietnamese govern-

ment has requested that the American soldiers take over the fighting, while the South Vietnamese regroup and help the people in the villages?"

"There was some talk of that, but the decision will have to be made in Washington. Although we now have 800,000 more American troops, it is still our hope that we fight side by side with the Vietnamese soldiers."

"Sir, the rumor is that the South Vietnamese army may soon switch roles and become advisers to the American troops."

"The South Vietnamese have offered to co-operate in any way they can. Perhaps at a future date they may take a more active role, but you must remember our latest commitment is only 900,000 men and we have no intention of raising it unless the situation warrants it."

Someone said to the army spokesman: "Of the 950,000 men landed this morning, how many of them are combat-trained as opposed to service troops?"

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"It's hard to say. By the way, gentlemen, I've just been asked to correct the figure I gave you earlier. A million Americans were landed this morning and will be used mostly as an advance force to set up facilities for regular troops who will be landed in the next few weeks."

"How many men will be landed next week?"

"We can't say at this time, but the commitment will be kept to a minimum. While we are pledged to help the South Vietnamese, we don't want to do anything to give the impression that the South Vietnam conflict is an American war." *END*

ART BUCHWALD

# Thinking Secretly

It is not generally known among the brain trusts in our government is a man who probably has the most important job in the country. He is in charge of thinking the "unthinkable."

His name is Jean Pensepas and his work is so secret that only a few close friends and associates know exactly what he's thinking.



How I got to see and talk to him is not mine to tell, but I was granted an interview and given permission to put

down what he said.

Pensepas told me he first started working for the government early in the Eisenhower administration when it was unthinkable that we would get involved in a war in Southeast Asia.

"In 1964 Barry Goldwater made some very strong statements about Vietnam," Pensepas said. "He advocated bombing North Vietnam, defoliating the Ho Chi Minh Trail, escalating American troops, and fighting the war until the enemy gave in. President Johnson said this was unthinkable and he turned the problem over to me. Well, I thought and thought and thought, and I finally decided all these things weren't as unthinkable as the President thought they were."

## What President Thought

"Do you think the President really thought they were unthinkable or was he just saying it because it was an election year?" I asked.

"It's hard to tell about the Pres-

ident. He thought it was unthinkable that the machinists would settle in the airline strike, and what he thought about the price raise was not only unthinkable but unprintable. So he might have been sincere in 1964 when he said that Barry Goldwater's proposals were unthinkable."

"But why did he change his mind?"

"I started thinking about it. All those unthinkable things Goldwater said made sense from a military viewpoint, and once the President felt Hanoi would not come to the conference table, he started to have second thoughts," Pensepas said.

"Do you think about unthinkable things after somebody does them?"

"Of course not. Once you do an unthinkable thing, it's not unthinkable anymore. For example, before we bombed the oil tanks around Hanoi and Haiphong, that was unthinkable. Now everyone takes the bombings for granted. Then it was unthinkable to bomb the demilitarized zone between North Vietnam and South Vietnam, but people don't think about it anymore. My job is to devote my time to things that are absolutely unheard of."

"What about Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky's suggestion that we invade North Vietnam?"

"At the moment that is still unthinkable, but just the other day former Vice President Richard Nixon said in Saigon he didn't blame Marshal Ky for suggesting it. So it's really not as unthinkable as it was a month ago. It takes a little time for an unthinkable thing to be adopted, particularly if it comes from somebody like Marshal Ky."

"What is the most unthinkable thing you're thinking about now?"

"You mean if China comes into the war?"

"You're not thinking about using the . . . ?"

Pensepas smiled. "It hasn't been completely ruled out."

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ART BUCHWALD

# If Reds Say Yes!

11/66

WASHINGTON — The Manila summit conference attended by President Johnson and other Southeast Asian heads of state was successful beyond anybody's wildest dreams. The final communique announcing that the United States and other troops fighting on the South Vietnamese side would pull out within six months, providing Hanoi did the same, was a masterful touch of diplomacy. There is only one thing that could

mar the success of the conference — and that is if the North Vietnamese accepted the proposal.



I would hate to think what would happen in the State Department if word was received that the North Vietnamese

had accepted the terms of the Manila conference and were ready to begin pulling out Communist troops immediately.

"Sir, we've just received word that Hanoi is willing to negotiate a peace settlement according to guidelines set down in Manila."

"They wouldn't dare."

"It's true. It's been confirmed by our embassies in Moscow, Paris and Dares Salaam."

"The dirty Commie double crossers. They knew that proposal was just for world consumption. Get me Hardright in here immediately."

"Yes, sir. By the way, the Pentagon is calling frantically. I guess they must have heard the news already."

"Stall 'em till we find a solution to this problem."

Hardright comes in.

## 'How Do You Explain?'

The deputy secretary glares at him. "Hardright, this latest peace proposal was your idea. How do you explain the fact that Hanoi accepted it?"

"I can't understand it, sir. It went along with all the lines of the other peace feelers that they had rejected in the past. We put in enough clinkers to make it entirely unacceptable to them. You know what I think, Sir. They're up to something."

"You're darned right they're up to something. If we pull out all our troops in six months, and they pull out all their troops in six months, there will be nobody left in South Vietnam but the Ky government and the Viet Cong. You know and I know the Ky government isn't strong enough to fight off the Viet Cong."

"Can I help it if the North Vietnamese are no longer intractable?"

"I'm not blaming you, Hardright, but we've got to find a solution to this problem or we'll be back where we started in 1956."

"I have one idea that I've been kicking around in my head. Suppose Hanoi pulls all its troops back to the north and we pull all our

troops out from the south. The South Vietnamese army would be in charge of keeping the peace in the country."

"They would never be able to do that," Hardright said.

"They might," the deputy secretary said, "if we sent in a few American military advisers."

"By golly," Hardright said, "what a great idea! We would announce that the advisers are only being sent in so the South Vietnamese could help themselves."

"Exactly. Our people would be used only to train their troops."

"How many military advisers do you think we should send in for a start?"

"Let's just send in 500. We can always add to that if the situation gets out of hand."

**END**

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# New, Old in Politics

WASHINGTON — Last week we had a chance to see the "new Johnson" and the "old Nixon" all within the period of a few days.

When I turned on my television set to see the President's press conference on Thursday morning, I thought I was going to see the old Johnson — relaxed, sure of himself and above politics. But suddenly in answer to a question about former Vice President Richard M. Nixon, President Johnson



called him a "chronic campaigner" and said, "He never did really recognize and realize what was going on when he had an official position in the government."

From there on out he verbally assaulted Nixon in a way that, according to newspapermen on the scene, even made Mrs. Johnson blush.

The conclusion was that this was the "new Johnson" speaking, a man who was getting tired of being told what he should or should not do in Vietnam. It was the first time he publicly attacked a Republican in such strong language, and those of us who know the "old Johnson" were very much intrigued. We were also curious to know which Nixon would react.

For several years now we've been treated to the "new Nixon," a man who puts his party before his personal ambitions. A man who would, he says, rather be right than President.

...Marvellous idea, cried Gen. Zapp. And he led his army out of the jungles of East Vietnam into Red China.

This caused some protest over getting involved in a land war in Asia. But that issue resolved itself when Gen. Zapp discovered the Chinese were being supplied with arms, weapons and gooseberry jam by the Russians. His army's long march across the Gobi Desert and its attack

...on Moscow are a matter of military history.

Indeed, Moscow might have fallen had not General Zapp captured documents proving the West Germans had been selling arms, rutabagas and chocolate sauce to the Russians for years.

"We must stop the forces of aggression at their source," cried Gen. Zapp out of habit as his troops marched into Bonn. "Find out who's been supplying these Germans!"

Well, that, of course, was the turning point. Space forbids recounting Gen. Zapp's further adventures. Suffice it to say his siege of Washington will long live in American military annals.

## 'New Nixon' Chuckles

The "new Nixon" immediately reacted to the "new Johnson" attack by chuckling and saying he didn't want to indulge in personalities. "I regret," he said in a speech in New Hampshire, "that the President has chosen to reduce this debate to personal levels, and I will not travel that road with him."

It was a great show of restraint on Nixon's part, and for the next few days people kept saying, "Isn't Nixon a regular new guy?"

But at the same time Mr. Johnson watchers in Washington kept saying, "Why did President Johnson suddenly change his image and give Richard Nixon his most important break of the year?" Up until the President's press conference Nixon was plodding his way around the country scarcely getting anything he said on Page 14 of the newspapers. Suddenly, thanks to the "new Johnson," the former vice president became Page One news.

"Maybe," one expert said, "this is really the 'old Johnson,' pretending he is a 'new Johnson.'"

"What do you mean?" I asked him.

## May Want Nixon as Foe

"Perhaps Mr. Johnson wants to run against Nixon in 1968. What better way to make Nixon the candidate than to attack him personally at a press conference?"

"But won't the 'new Nixon' be difficult to beat?" I asked.

"Nixon can only remain 'new Nixon' when he doesn't think he's got a chance to win the nomination. As soon as he gets his hopes up, he'll revert to the 'old Nixon.'"

"Then President Johnson attacked the 'new Nixon' just to see the 'old Nixon' in action again?"

"Exactly. That's the way the 'old Johnson' would do it."

# Firing Off a 4-Letter Word? May as Well Shoot Blanks

BY ART BUCHWALD

The four-letter word, which in the past could only be seen on the walls of men's washrooms and heard only in GI barracks, is now popping up all over the place. This is causing a great deal of concern amongst philologists who feel that the word is becoming so common that it will soon lose its impact.

Prof. Weymouth Langue, who has made a lifetime study of four-letter words at the University of Kussin, told me that unless the trend is reversed, the four-letter word would soon become as obsolete as the five-letter word Edsel.

"There are only two four-letter words that I am concerned with," said Prof. Langue. "While you still can't print them in your newspaper, I'm sure you know which ones I mean. In the past these words had most powerful effect on the English language. The reason for it is that they were used sparingly and only under very great provocation.

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But, alas, in the last 10 years, the words are written into every stage play, and they are included in every best-seller. Underground newspapers feature them in headlines, national magazines vie to print them in feature stories on Norman Mailer, and the latest place they've appeared is on the foreheads of students at the antiwar demonstrations in Chicago. There doesn't seem to be any place where one can't hear or read a four-letter word these days.

"And this bothers you?" I asked. "Only because the words are losing their value. I have always believed that once you had proliferation in the use of these two four-letter words, they would have very little retaliatory effect. For years they have given tremendous release to people under pressure. I doubt if our GIs could have gotten through any of their wars without them. But now, through overuse, there is a

great deal of apathy when you hear a four-letter word, and it has as much effect on you as the word 'rain' or 'book.'"

"But according to Mayor Daley, one of the reasons the police might have overreacted in Chicago was because of the four-letter words used against them by the mobs. They must have some emotional impact if they made the police do what they did."

"Yes, this is possibly true, but most riot training these days specifically instructs trainees to ignore obscenity from the crowds. The Chicago police broke their discipline, but we still don't know whether it was the four-letter words or what preceded or came after them that caused the police to get as rough as they did. My opinion is that the words themselves were not responsible, particularly since the police used them also. One four-letter word will always cancel out another unless it is used in a sentence."

"If these two words go out of fashion because of overuse, what other words will replace them?"

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"They've already been replaced. You can get a much more emotional response out of someone by saying 'cops' or 'Vietnam' or 'honkey' or 'nigger' than you can get out of 'blank' and 'blank.'"

"People even get mad when you say 'students,'" I said.

"Right. Obscenity can no longer be counted on as a trigger word, and I think this is blanking up the whole English language."

"What can you do about it?"

"Those of us who are interested in the problem are starting a campaign to preserve our four-letter words. We think they should be declared a national heritage, and be used as a last resort only in anger, and when people can no longer reason together."



ART BUCHWALD

# Clean N.Y. Mayor Campaign: Only Dealt in Personalities

WASHINGTON — Today is election day in New York City and for someone who doesn't live there it's been a very hard campaign to follow. It was one of the cleanest campaigns ever seen in New York and the only things that the candidates have charged each other with have been bigotry, racism, incompetence, stupidity, and moral turpitude.

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As far as we can tell from the advertisements, a vote for William Buckley is really a vote for Abraham Beame. A vote for Beame is really a vote for John Lindsay. And a vote for Lindsay is either a vote for Beame or Buckley, depending on how you feel about David Dubinsky, the head of the Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Mr. Lindsay is the best looking of the three and has been attacked for this by his opponents who feel a city as large as New York would be handicapped by a good-looking mayor.

The congressman from the silk stocking district insists he is running as a fusion candidate and not as a Republican. Therefore, a win by Lindsay, ac-

11/2/65  
cording to Republican leaders, would be a big boost for the Republican Party all over the United States.

Mr. Buckley does not really want to be mayor of New York City and has already announced that if he won he would demand a recount. His objective seems to be to prevent Mr. Lindsay from winning. Since he is not a serious candidate for office, he has had the advantage of not having to discuss the issues. Because he's steered clear of the issues and only dealt in personalities, Mr. Buckley has been getting the most attention of any of the three candidates.

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Mr. Beame is the democratic candidate for mayor and has been attacked for his height, his lack of glamour, and his handling of the city's books as controller. At the beginning the only one in the Democratic Party who hedged on his endorsement was President Johnson who had only sent him warm greetings through Vice President Humphrey. You can't do much with warm greetings during an election campaign, and many of Mr. Beame's supporters indicated that the warm greetings would have as much effect on the race as an autographed photo of Mr. Johnson's gall bladder operation.

Mayor Wagner has not campaign actively for Con-

troller Beame, presumably because Sen. Robert Kennedy is supporting him. No national Republicans have campaigned for Lindsay because Lindsay was afraid that, if they did, he would lose the Democratic vote.

Mr. Lindsay has been attacked for being a white Protestant, Mr. Buckley has been attacked for being a Catholic, and Mr. Beame's only hope is that New York has never had a Jewish mayor.

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Mr. Buckley has accused Mr. Lindsay of being soft on Communists and Mr. Lindsay has accused Mr. Beame of being soft on Mr. Buckley.

Lindsay insists that if Mr. Beame really had the best interests of the city at heart he should answer Buckley's charges against Lindsay. Beame does not want to attack Buckley, because, if he did, President Johnson might ask for his warm greetings back.

So today the citizens of New York City will have an opportunity to go to the polls and decide who their mayor will be. It isn't an easy election to predict, at least not since Yale announced that Columbus didn't discover America and fouled up the Italian vote.

All I can say is: "New York is a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to vote there."

ART BUCHWALD

# Dean Rusk's Antenna the LA-11/27/65 Latest in Static Symbols

WASHINGTON — One of the trickiest things to recognize in Washington is legitimate "peace feelers" from the enemy. In a Look magazine article Eric Sevareid wrote that Adlai Stevenson had told him the United States rejected a "peace feeler" from Hanoi through U.N. Secretary General U Thant in August of 1964. The State Department confirmed that the offer had been made, but thanks to Dean Rusk's antenna, which is very sensitive to peace feelers, the United States had turned it down.

The assistant secretary for peace feelers in the State Department told me the other day, "I don't know what all the fuss is about. We've had a lot of peace feelers from the Commies, but not one of them has shown up on Dean Rusk's feeler set as being legitimate."

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"How do you know when a peace feeler is legitimate or not?" I asked.

"We have a peace-feeler evaluator here," he said, taking me over to what looked like a very complicated radio set. "When a peace feeler comes in, we broadcast to Dean Rusk, who picks it up on his counter-peace feeler. This feeler, attached to the secretary's head, is so sensitive that it can tell within



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seconds whether it is a sincere feeler or just another lousy Communist trick."

"Could you demonstrate for me?"

"Well, I don't know if the secretary has his counter-feeler on his head now or not. Let's try it." He spoke into the machine. "Hanoi told Bulgaria it will meet with American representatives in Geneva."

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There was a crackling static and finally a weak voice came over which said, "Turn the offer down."

The assistant secretary switched the machine off.

"That's marvelous," I said. "It's almost like extrasensory perception."

"It's the greatest breakthrough we've had since radar," he said proudly.

"Would it work for any secretary of state?" I asked.

"We don't know. Dean Rusk's feeler is his own. We just built the machinery to fit it."

"Is this the only way

you people handle peace feelers?" I asked.

"Oh, no. For the time being it's the most foolproof, but we have other methods as well. Timing is very important when it comes to peace feelers. For example, when you're losing a war, you've got to ignore them or the other side will get you in a box. The peace feeler from them may be legitimate, but you certainly don't want to take it up with people committing naked aggression."

"Then you would only take up a peace feeler when you're winning?" I said.

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"No, not necessarily. When you're winning there is no reason to sit down and talk peace because then you might have to work out a compromise with the naked aggressors."

"But if you can't accept a peace feeler when you're losing and you can't accept one when you're winning, when can you accept one?"

"If I told you that I'd be giving aid and comfort to the enemy."

"Do you ever send out peace feelers of our own?"

"All the time. The President has said he will talk peace anywhere, anytime, with no conditions attached."

"Have they ever picked up your feelers?"

"As far as we know they haven't."

"Why not?"

"We don't know, unless it's because they've got one of these damn feeler machines of their own."

ART BUCHWALD

2/3/66

## Biggest Snow Job in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON — Washington just had one of the biggest blizzards in its history and although snow had been predicted no one thought it would be on this scale. One of the reasons for this is the credibility gap where people are suspicious of everything that is announced.

I discussed this gap with a high government official as he was digging his car out of his driveway the other morning.

"Sir, did you know there was going to be a blizzard?"

"I'm as surprised as anybody," he said. "I heard that bad weather was in the works but I thought this was just a way of President Johnson making it easier to announce he was going to resume the bombing of North Vietnam."

"Who authorized the blizzard?"

"It had to come from the White House. My department certainly knew nothing about it. We weren't even consulted."

"Do you think a blizzard was a good thing to have at this time of the year?"

"Well, you have to remember the President is the only one who can make this agonizing decision. He has all the facts. While a blizzard may look like the worst thing to give the people, it could in the long run be the best thing we could do under the circumstances."

"There are some people who believe Congress should have decided whether we should have had a blizzard or not."

★  
"Congress gave President Johnson a vote of confidence in 1965 and said they would support any decisions he would make concerning the weather."

"Yes sir, but they thought they were voting for a light snow fall or at the most a White Christmas. They had no idea the President was going to get us into a blizzard."

"The President didn't want a blizzard any more

than anybody else. For the last three months he has done everything to keep the weather from getting out of hand. But the elements have been against him and it is his opinion that unless we stand firm in the face of heavy snowfall now, we will have a worse blizzard later on. Everyone in this administration is for clear weather, but it has to be clear weather with honor."

★  
"Isn't one of the dangers of a blizzard that the harder you try to dig out of it, the more chances you have of getting stuck in it?"

"Nobody knows the dangers of a blizzard more than the President. He did not arrive at his decision to have one until he con-

sulted with many, many people."

"Was Dean Rusk in on it?"

"I'm sure of it. He had to notify our allies what we planned to do."

"Have they supported him in the blizzard?"

"They haven't given snow plows or road clearing equipment and there are some of our friends who asked the President to hold off on the blizzard and give the elements a chance. But here again the President had to make the final decision."

★  
"Could this lead to larger and large blizzards?"

"We certainly hope not. The dropping of snow at this time should indicate that we mean business and although we may be up to our necks in snow, this doesn't mean we would not be the first ones to want it all to melt."

"What happens if the blizzard doesn't work?"

"We'll have to cook up some other kind of storm."

"It looks like it's going to snow some more."

"I'm sure the President would allow no more snow to drop than is absolutely necessary."

ART BUCHWALD

7/6/65 - L.A.T.

# Floored by Good Right Arm

WASHINGTON—There have been a lot of rumors and rumblings here that President Johnson is hard on his staff, but no one in the White House has been willing to talk about it publicly. Last week Jack Valenti, special assistant to the President, made a speech to the Advertising Federation of America in Boston, and for the first time a Presidential intimate struck back, refused to mince words and said exactly what was on his mind.

The speech was hard-hitting, and made Valenti the hero of the White House staff, though no one knows how the President took it.

In his opening remarks, Valenti set the tone of his speech.

He described the President as "a sensitive man, a cultivated man, a warm-hearted and extraordinary man, one whose spirit never seems to be captured."

★

Refusing to let it go at that, Valenti then lashed out, describing President Johnson as "a man of courage, a man of compassion and a man of intelligence that is married to the instinct for rightness."

When reporters heard this they suddenly realized this wasn't going to



BUCHWALD

be one of these, "Let us now praise famous men" speeches.

In describing the President's day, Valenti said, "the President, thank the Good Lord, has extra glands, I am persuaded, that give him energy that ordinary men simply don't have. He goes to bed late and rises early and the words I have never heard him say are 'I'm tired.'"

★

With all the courage of Sonny Liston, Valenti kept swinging. "Contrary to popular notion, the President is not fond of those who continually say 'yes' to him. He thrives on new ideas, new initiatives, innovations and fresh thinking. If a man consistently agrees and offers no new counter arguments, that man is soon not asked for advice."

No one had ever said this before and if he had let it go at that Valenti might not have endangered his job. But for some reason he continued.

He quoted a top adviser after hearing the President suggest ways of solving the Guantanamo water crisis as saying that "it was a dazzling example of sophisticated diplomacy and shrewd handling of a ticklish, peevish foreign problem."

★

Then Valenti described the President's relations with his staff and it was a blockbuster. "Sometimes just before he leaves his office he will sit in the small inner office he uses for intimate conversation with members of the staff. There will be laughter and easy talk as the President begins and sheds the crisis crest that has accumulated during the day . . . He (the President) is probably the most skilled teller of stories since Lincoln and their humor is much the same, extracted from the soil and the people of the land."

After several more straightforward jabs, Valenti wound up his speech by saying, "I sleep each night a little better because Lyndon Johnson is my President. For I know he lives, thinks and works to make sure that for all America and in-

deed, the growing body of the free world, the morning shall always come."

The question that everyone is asking here is how can Valenti possibly stay on at the White House after this speech? How can a President, no matter how thick-skinned, and President Johnson is certainly thick-skinned, allow one of his aides to talk about him publicly in this manner? The feeling here is that Valenti had a grudge against the President he should have kept it to himself.

END

ART BUCHWALD

June 1-66-  
Far Away  
With LSD

WASHINGTON—There has been so much written about LSD lately that I decided to at least try it and see what it was all about. So I stole a cube of sugar from a Senate LSD hearing and went back to my office.

I seated myself in a chair, bit into the cube and stared at the wall waiting for my first hallucination.



It wasn't long in coming. I saw a hawk flying around the room but his face was that of Secretary of State Dean Rusk. As he swooped down towards my desk, I heard him scream, "We're

willing to negotiate. We're willing to negotiate. We're willing to negotiate. This is a recorded announcement. I started to laugh hysterically, then I looked up and saw President Johnson on the ceiling looking down at me.

His voice boomed, "Ah'm doing the best Ah can but my critics keep using my name in vain." Suddenly I saw Bill Moyers in doing the water next to the President and handing him an opinion poll. The President read it, and then there was thunder and lightning, followed by, "If anyone has any better solution than I have he can have my job." I started to cry.

I looked down on the floor and saw Vice President Humphrey stretched out. I heard myself saying, "Hubert, what are you doing on the floor?"

### Bobby Kennedy Climbs

Humphrey replied, "He won't let me on the ceiling."

I looked over and saw Bobby Kennedy climbing the wall. "What are you doing?"

"If I start climbing now I may get up there by 1972," he replied.

The room was going around in cir-

cles. I saw Mayor John Lindsay tearing down Wall Street, stone by stone. Then I saw Lady Bird planting a tree in Sen. Dirksen's hair. And finally I saw Sen. Dodd sitting all alone at a testonial dinner eating every plate of food in the room.

I shut my eyes but the hallucinations continued.

Gen. de Gaulle was singing "The Star Spangled Banner," Nasser was making a speech for the United Jewish Appeal, Gen. Ky was praying to Buddha.

I saw Gov. Wallace and his wife Lurleen serving dinner to Martin Luther King, and then Ralph Nader driving Henry Ford around in a Corvair.

### Liz as Cleopatra

Despite all the hallucinations I felt completely in control of myself. When Elizabeth Taylor came into my office dressed as Cleopatra, I told her to leave. I also threw out Sophia Loren. LSD or no LSD, I was aware in my mind that I was a married man.

Then I started taking off my clothes.

A flying saucer landed on my head. At first I thought it was Dean Rusk. Then David Brinkley and Chet Huntley were carrying me around on their shoulders, as Walter Cronkite was explaining why I couldn't get into orbit.

The hallucinations might have gone on forever except that one of the reporters from the New York Herald Tribune came in and said, "Did you take a cube of sugar from the Senate LSD hearing?"

I giggled. "Yes, I've taken a trip."

"There was no LSD on that sugar," he said. "That sugar was Teddy Kennedy's coffee."

I started putting on my clothes and said, "Well, you could have fooled me." end

ART BUCHWALD

# Los Angeles--It Could Happen Here

ART- 8/24/65

ENCHILADA, Central America — President Emmanuel el Finco, of the Central American country of Enchilada, announced today he was landing a battalion of Enchiladan Marines in the City of Los Angeles to protect the lives and property of Enchiladans who have been caught there in the recent riots.

★

The president, in a televised interview, told his country, "my decision to send Enchiladan troops into Los Angeles is based solely on humanitarian

reasons. The mayor of Los Angeles has admitted that there is an insurrection taking place and, while we refuse to take sides in what we consider an internal affair, our reports indicate that the rioters have been infiltrated by Communist and left wing elements who hope to take over the government.

"I have instructed the Enchiladan general in command to take all precautions to guarantee the safety of not only Enchiladan citizens, but all other foreign nationals in Los Angeles. I have the approval of the Enchiladan sen-

ate and I am notifying the Organization of American States of my actions."

In a press conference after President el Finco's announcement he was asked if the sending of Enchiladan troops into Los Angeles meant that he thought the Angelenos could not govern themselves.

★

"Our information is that there is complete anarchy there," the president replied. "We will withdraw our troops as soon as the situation stabilizes." "How long do you think

that will be?" a correspondent asked.

"I am not sure. We plan to set up a nine-mile perimeter in the center of town to evacuate our people as well as keep the various factions separated. It is my hope that the Organization of American States will replace Enchiladan troops with soldiers from other Western Hemisphere countries."

"Are you concerned with world opinion over your unprecedented action?"

"We always take world opinion into consideration. At the same time Enchila-

da is bound by the El Finco Doctrine. While helping the people of Los Angeles, we ask nothing for ourselves. We just want them to be as happy as we are." "Thank you, Mr. President."

ART BUCHWALD

LAT-7/27/65

## Negative Reaction Develops From Photos for De Gaulle

After the famous oil fiasco on the Riviera when the aircraft carrier Shangri La dumped 2,600 gallons of oil on Cannes, the United States has been thinking of ways of making it up to the French.

Different plans were submitted by various departments. One was to offer the French the New York World's Fair after we had finished with it. Another was to put a Frenchman on the U.S. Supreme Court. Still a third was to buy all France's surplus agricultural products so that it could resolve its differences with the Common Market.

★

For one reason or another all the suggestions were rejected. But finally the CIA, of all people, came up with a brilliant suggestion.

They decided that one of the nicest gestures the United States could make towards France was to present to President De Gaulle a beautiful, bound photograph album consisting of pictures of his country taken from the air.

These pictures in color would be our way of saying, "We're sorry about the oil, but we hope this album shows you how much we hold your nation in our esteem."

In order for it to be a surprise for De Gaulle, everyone was sworn to secrecy about the project. The CIA asked the Air Force in Ramstein, Ger., to take the photographs, as they were afraid, if they were taken by any U.S. planes

stationed in France, somebody would probably get wind of it.

The top leather binder in the United States was ordered to produce an album worthy of being presented to a head of state.

★

"Operation Surprise du Chef," as it was called, was put into action. For days American pilots crisscrossed the French countryside taking beautiful photographs with their cameras. When the pictures were developed, a Life Magazine editor selected the best ones for the album, and the others were destroyed.

There were a few close calls. Once an American plane was forced down in a French vineyard and the pilot, following instructions, ate a poisoned truffle rather than reveal what he was up to. Another time a pilot parachuted over Chartres, but his cover story, that he always wanted to see what the Chartres Cathedral looked like from the air, was accepted by the French authorities without suspicion.

Finally the album was almost completed except for an aerial shot around Pierrelatte in the Rhone Valley, below Lyons. This is one of President De Gaulle's favorite areas in France and it was felt that without a picture of it the book would be incomplete.

So a last plane was sent from Germany for the specific purpose of shooting this lovely, picturesque town. But unbeknownst to the CIA or the Air Force, a French atomic bomb complex is located at Pierrelatte and the French have been very touchy about having it photographed.

★

As a matter of fact, the French became so angered when the plane started taking the pictures that they demanded the film after the plane landed, and they refused to accept the explanation that the photos were taken as a surprise for President De Gaulle.

Even when the Americans produced the inscribed leather album, the French were still skeptical, and instead of appreciating all the trouble the United States went to to give De Gaulle a gift, they sent a stiff note to the U.S. Embassy.

President Johnson knew nothing about the surprise and, when he heard what a flap it caused, he was obviously furious. He told the French ambassador, "Ah'm sorry, Mr. Ambassador, all ah told them to do was take pictures of Mars."

ART BUCHWALD

4/11/66

## Our Contingency Contingent

Anytime you have a foreign policy, you have to have a contingency plan in case the policy doesn't work. The recent anti-government demonstrations in South Vietnam against Premier Ky and the United States has Washington worried, and the Joint Contingency Committee was called into special session.

The chairman of the committee said, "Gentlemen, there is a possibility that the Ky government could fall, and if it does, we're going to have to come up with an explanation. Does anyone have any suggestions?"

★

"Couldn't we say that, after he met with President Johnson in Hawaii, Ky refused to pay his hotel bill, so we no longer could support him?"

"I don't think that will work. He may have a receipt."

"Why don't we take a leaf out of the Abba Schwartz book and say we've decided to eliminate the job of Premier of South Vietnam and turn his duties over to the Passport Division?"

"We could do that. But would it satisfy the Buddhists?"

"Nothing will satisfy the Buddhists. But I'm not sure eliminating the Premier's job will settle the crisis."

"I have a thought. We say the reason Ky fell was because he was too short and he could never read the teleprompter. We could say we not only needed a stronger leader there, but a taller one."

"That's not bad. We've never used that one before."

"I'd hate to get committed at this time to a tall Vietnamese. There's got to be a better explanation for Ky's downfall."

"What about announcing that Ky quit his job to run for lieutenant governor of California?"

"It's too late. He had to get his petition in last week. Otherwise it wouldn't have been a bad idea."

"Is there anything in this? Premier Ky asked to be relieved of his job so he could write a book about President Johnson."

"I don't think the President would like that. He became very fond of Ky in Hawaii."

"That's why we're in so much trouble."

"Why don't we say Ky never intended to stay more than 10 months as he believes if you stay in office too long in Vietnam you lose your pension."

"Is there any way we could blame Sen. Fulbright for this one?"

"How do we do it?"

"Well, if Fulbright hadn't held his hearings on the war in South Vietnam, President Johnson would never have gone to Hawaii to meet with Premier Ky, and if President Johnson hadn't met with Ky and given him his full support, Ky might not have been kicked out by his own people back home."

★

"I think you're on to something there. I'm sure Time magazine will go for it."

"Yes, but nobody else will. Gentlemen, we've got to come up with something better."

"Wait a minute. Wait a minute. Didn't Premier Ky shoot a Chinese businessman a month ago?"

"Yes, he did."

"Okay. If he falls, we make an announcement that President Johnson couldn't support anyone who killed businessmen."

"I think that's it. Type it up and send it over to the State Department, and tell them to be sure and not release it until they're dead certain that Ky is out."



4/21/65

# CIA Summa Cum Difficulty

BY ART BUCHWALD

It was revealed last week that a study project on Vietnam at Michigan State University was in reality a cover for a CIA financed operation. It was charged that the project, which lasted from 1955 to 1959, was used to set up the Diem government in Vietnam and keep it in power.

The university has admitted that it did go along with the CIA and knew the agents were on campus. But it denied an article in Ramparts magazine that it did anything wrong.

The revelation has caused a certain amount of apprehension in the

have to read every second word."

"I don't understand."

"I can't help it. That's the way they taught me to write in high school."

"Green, I notice you never take any notes in my class. Can you explain this to me?"

★

"It's because of my tie clasp. You see, my tie clasp is really a radio transmitter. I have a tape machine back in my room and all I do is tape your lectures. It saves me writing with invisible ink."

"Very ingenious, Green. Now I noticed during the last test you kept photographing the other students' papers with a Minox camera."

"Yeah, well, it was just a training exercise."

"A training exercise?"

"Yeah, I was thinking of working for Xerox when I finished school."

"Green, I don't want to seem unreasonable, but the last book report you handed in was on microfilm."

"What's wrong with that?"

"Nothing except you left it in a pumpkin behind your fraternity house. I don't have time to look for hidden book reports."

"I guess it's force of habit. Look, I've got a meeting this afternoon with a courier, I mean a fraternity brother. Is there anything else?"

★

"Yes, there is, Green. I'm going to have to flunk you."

"Flunk me in government?"

"Flunk you in the CIA." The professor whipped out a CIA card.

"I'm your superior, Green, in charge of the operation at this school and you've made a hash of things."

"But how?"

"It turns out the sorority girl you're dating works for the Students Against American Intervention in Vietnam. She's had you bugged from the beginning."

"But how?"

"Take a close look at her sorority pin which you're wearing."

"My, gosh, you can't trust anybody anymore."



Bastian in San Francisco Chronicle

academic world and nobody can be sure anymore who is a legitimate student and who is a member of the CIA.

Just the other day at Rambling Tech University a professor of government called in one of his students and said, "Mr. Green, I don't understand this essay. You handed in nothing but a blank sheet of paper."

"What's the matter, professor, haven't you heard of invisible ink?"

"Invisible ink?"

"I ran out of ink, so I had to write with my other pen. Put it in a pan of water. The essay's all there."

The professor took the essay over to his sink and poured water on it. "This is very strange. Oh, yes, now I see it. The title of the essay is 'Zink the Zonk Government Zeek and Zak Higher Zip Education.'"

"That's right," Green said, "you

ART BUCHWALD

# Foreign Relations Heating Up in Enchilada, Upper Tamale

WASHINGTON — Last week the House of Representatives passed, over-  
sentativds passed, over-  
calling for the use of force by any American nation, if necessary, to prevent a Communist takeover in any Western Hemisphere country.

The resolution, sponsored by Rep. Armistead I. Seldon Jr. of Alabama, has produced a furor in Latin America and almost every country has denounced it.

Despite this I am happy to report that the Republic of Enchilada is not only supporting the House of Representatives resolu-

tion, but is planning to act on it. It has never been a secret that Enchilada's arch enemy is Upper Tamale, which lies just across the Vale of Chili.

For years Enchilada and Upper Tamale have had a border dispute about the Vale.

As soon as the resolution was passed, Gen. El Finco, the president of Enchilada, called his parliament, which he had dissolved four months ago, back into session, and in an impassioned pro-United States speech said, "Thanks to the American House of Representatives, which

has just passed a resolution saying any American republic can attack any other American republic if there is a question of a Communist government, I am suggesting we attack Upper Tamale immediately. As everyone in Enchilada knows, Upper Tamale is lousy with Communists, and its leader, Gen. Frijoles, is nothing more than a Castro pawn who would enslave all of South America.

"It is the duty of Enchiladans to wipe out the forces of subversion in this hemisphere no matter where they might be and I

am asking the United States through the Alliance for Progress to send us 200 B-52 bombers, 400 Patton tanks, and 1,000 Hawk missiles to see that this menace is eradicated.

But at the moment that Gen. El Finco was speaking in Enchilada, Gen. Frijoles was addressing his senate.

He told them, "I am happy to announce today that the mother of all freedom-loving countries in South America, our own Upper Tamale, is now prepared to strike a blow against Communism in the Vale of Chili. The leftist-dominat-

ed, Red-infiltrated subversive government of Enchilada must be taught a lesson once and for all. I hold here in my hand evidence that Gen. El Finco is the illegitimate son of Mao Tse-Tung. We can no longer sit idly by and see a Communist takeover of Enchilada. Our ambassador in Washington is now negotiating through the Alliance for Progress for 250 fighter planes, 100 nuclear submarines, and 350 tons of nauseous tear gas, which we will use to wipe Enchilada off the face of the earth."

So, while many South

American countries may be critical of the Selden resolution, there are at least two Latin countries who are for it. There won't be a Commie government safe in South America after this.

END

# The Diplomatic Job Corps

BY ART BUCHWALD

The rumor is that the General Thi, who was just kicked out of the South Vietnamese government, has been offered a diplomatic post abroad. Not long ago, the Dominican Republic government insisted that all its enemies from the left and right take embassy jobs in other countries. If the trend continues, the entire diplomatic corps will soon be made up of opposition leaders who can't go home.

★

It's started already. I was at a diplomatic reception the other night and I overheard several diplomats talking.

"Alfredo, what are you doing in Washington?" one of them asked.

"I tried to overthrow my government, so they made me ambassador to the United States."

"Tough luck."

"Well, it's better than being shot."

"That's the way I feel," the other replied. "Besides, there's always a chance if my president gets overthrown I can go back."

"Wasn't your president the former ambassador to the United States?"

"That's right. We threw him out in the revolution of July 23rd. But he made friends here with the CIA and came back in the revolution of November 14th. When I was captured he offered me Paris or Washington. I was in Paris right after the 1959 coup, so I thought I'd try Washington this time."

"At least he gave you a choice." "Why shouldn't he? He made me promise if I overthrew him he would become the ambassador to Switzerland. He wants to be near his money."

"Isn't that Gen. Rinaldo over there? General, what are you doing there?"

"I'm the second secretary in the embassy, and let me tell you, my friends, they have not heard the last of me."

"Why is that?"

"I was the foreign minister in the last government and should have been made FIRST secretary. But they made the minister of justice first secretary because I was out of the country at the time the junta took over. I was tried in absentia."

"That's shocking. A man of your rank being made second secretary."

"You can say that again. But when my party takes over, I'm going to make the present foreign minister consul general to Ghana."

"Will the Americans let you do it?"

"I'll get rid of him before they send their troops in."

★

"Did you hear about Arturo?"

"No, what happened?"

"When the revolutionists took over, they discovered he had taken \$10 million out of the country."

"What did they do to him?"

"What else could they do to him?"

"They sent him to the United Nations."

"Serves him right," the ambassador said.

"I wouldn't be that harsh. It could have been one of us."

"I think the Africans have a much better solution to their revolutions."

"How's that?"

"Well, if you're the ruler of one country and the army throws you out, they make you the president of another country. That way they don't have such a discontented diplomatic corps."

## 'Y'Know, Lyndon Was a Pretty Good Guy ...'

BY ART BUCHWALD

This is the first week in five years that you can't hear an unkind word about President Lyndon Baines Johnson. As he is preparing to leave office his most ardent critics have changed their tunes, and it's hard to believe that they are talking about the same man they were discussing a year ago.

One of his toughest critics said at a party the other night, "He may have made mistakes, but you can't fault him on what he tried to do."

Another Johnson nonadmirer agreed, "If Nixon does half as well as Lyndon did, he'll be a good President."

"Nixon won't. They don't make Presidents like L.B.J. any more."

"You know what I liked about Johnson?" another former anti-Johnson man said. "His style. He had a free-wheeling style which made you admire him. I think Nixon's biggest weakness is he has no style."

"You can say that again. Lyndon came from Texas, and at least you

"Nixon's faults outnumber his strengths."

A lady nodded her head. "I can't stand Nixon on TV. At least when you saw Johnson on TV you knew he was sincere."

The lady next to her agreed. "President Johnson had kind eyes and a sincere chin."

"He was good to the poor," I said, not wanting to look as if I had anything against Mr. Johnson.

"And he worried about the black people," a former McCarthy supporter said.

"Nixon won't hold a candle to him when it comes to what Johnson did for education."

"And don't forget the redwood trees in California," someone else said. "To this day, people don't know how Johnson saved the redwood trees."

"I think when I remember Johnson," said another person, "it will be for Medicare. You know Nixon won't do anything for sick people."

"Why should he? They aren't his people."

★

I tried to bring some balance back into the conversation.

"I guess if you'd have to fault Johnson at all, it would be in foreign affairs."

Everyone turned on me angrily. "He thought he was doing the right thing at the time."

"He was only following out the policies of Kennedy and Eisenhower."

"Do you think Nixon is going to do any better?"

I tried to recoup. "There'll never be another Lady Bird."

Another ex-Johnson hater said, "I'm going to miss the whole Johnson family, including Jack Valenti's daughter."

"Tricia will never be another Lynda Bird."

"And Julie will never be another Luci."

I was starting to choke up. "I don't want him to go," I cried.

"None of us do," a former ADA president sobbed.

"The worst part is that he'll never know how we felt about him."

"Yeh, and Nixon won't even have the class to tell him."



knew where he stood on the issues."

"You're right. You have no idea where Nixon stands on anything."

"Johnson really worked as President," said another man who used to get red when Lyndon's name was mentioned. "Maybe he had his faults, but he also had his strengths, and his strengths outnumbered his faults."

## Planning a Student Riot? Here's Easy-to-Use Script

BY ART BUCHWALD

Those of us who try to keep abreast of student affairs have noticed that student riots are taking on a pattern. The script reads something like this:

Dean of students arrives on campus. Students start throwing rocks, dirt and tomatoes at him, and try to hit him over the head as they scream, "Amnesty! Amnesty!"

Dean of students, as he tries to protect himself, yells back, "What do you want amnesty from?"

Students: "From attacking you. We demand that you sign a paper that we won't be punished for throwing things at you and trying to hit you over the head."

Dean: "But why should I do that? Wouldn't it be better if you didn't attack me!"

Students: "Spoken like a bourgeois

understand the question. Obscenity, obscenity, obscenity."

Dean: "Very interesting."

Students: "What about the draft?"

Dean: "I don't know anything about the draft. My specialty is anthropology."

Students: "Black is beautiful."

Dean: "That's very good. Why are you throwing that chair at me?"

Students: "The system stinks and we have nothing to say about the crummy, capitalistic, profit-making Establishment."

Dean: "I assure you that whether you throw that chair at me or not, it is not going to help your cause. It could even hurt it."

★

Students: "We don't have a cause. We have certain demands and if they're not met in two hours, we're going to burn down the library."

Dean: "What good will that do?"

Students: "It will bring about the needed reforms in education."

Dean: "Without books?"

Students: "You're trying to hold a dialog with us."

Dean: "Heaven forbid."

Students: "If you don't agree to sign a paper giving us amnesty, we'll close down the school."

Dean: "I don't have the authority to give you amnesty. But I won't press any charges against you, if you'll only stop hitting me with these table legs."

Students: "You're patronizing us. Aren't we even grown up enough to have charges pressed against us?"

Dean: "All right. I'll press charges against you then, if that's what you want."

Students: "We knew you would, you South Vietnamese puppet."

Dean: "Now you've gone too far. You're all suspended from this school."

Students: "What about due process? Don't we even get a trial?"

Dean: "You will, after you're all expelled."

Students: "Up against the wall! Up against the wall!"

Dean: "You said it; I didn't."

Students: "Don't we have any constitutional rights at all?"



Cartoon by Darcy

racist. You don't even care to listen to what we have to say."

Dean: "I'd be happy to hear what you've got to say, if you'd just stop throwing things at me. I can't listen when I'm constantly ducking."

Students: "Obscenity—what do you have to say to that?"

Dean: "I didn't understand the question."

Students: "You don't want to

## Being Funny Too Will Be a Great Strain, Sir . . .

BY ART BUCHWALD

Dear President Nixon,

This will be the first of many letters I will write to you in the next four years telling you how to run the country. You'll be very happy to hear that there is no charge for this advice as I feel it's my duty as a loyal American to help the President solve the many problems of the day. Now the first thing, Mr. President, I think you're going to have to stop is the jokes. I watched you on television making the rounds of the inaugural balls last week, and while I chuckled as much as you did at everything you had to say, my fear is that you can't keep up that high pace of humor and also perform the duties of President of the United States.

★

The trouble with being President and using witty lines is that by the third time you've told them everyone in the country has heard them, and you get to sound like a recorded announcement.

I'm not saying you shouldn't have humor in your Administration, because heaven knows the country needs a laugh, but I think you could turn this problem over to your Vice President, Spiro Agnew, or if worse comes to worst, your secretary of the interior, Walter Hickel.

As a matter of fact, there are many people in Washington, including Congress, the Supreme Court and the Pentagon, who can provide the laughs for this country, without you having to work on your own humor.

It's a strain to come up with quips every day, and while there is no doubt in my mind that you could do it, I don't want you to feel you have to. Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge did tremendous jobs as Presidents, and I doubt if you'll find six humorous things either one of

them said that people are still quoting.

I must admit you had a few beauts on inaugural night. That one about Spiro Agnew marrying above himself was a rib-tickler, and the one about former President Eisenhower saying he was glad he called you the night before the inauguration so he could still call you "Dick" was a beaut, and the one about someone giving you the key to the White House and you thought you'd better go there was good enough for Laugh-In.

The only one I didn't understand was the joke about Guy Lombardo. You said at the Smithsonian that you and Pat had danced to Guy Lombardo's orchestra on VJ night, and you hoped Guy Lombardo would still be playing when the next war ended.

I started to laugh at that one and then I got pretty shaken. Mr. President, do you know something we don't know?

★

I know it's gratuitous for me to discuss your humor with you, but I thought if I mentioned it now, it might save you time later on. No one can come up with as many good one-liners as you did on inaugural night, and keep it up for four years.

I've talked it over with my colleagues, Russ Baker, Art Hoppe, Herblock, Bill Mauldin, Paul Conrad, and many other people in the political humor business and we all agreed that you should be spared the problem of entertaining us while running the country. To paraphrase the Greyhound Bus advertisement: "Go Air Force One and leave the joking to us."

Sincerely,  
A. B.

P.S. How could Guy Lombardo still be playing after the next war?

## The Understanding Which Passeth All Peace...

BY ART BUCHWALD

One of the things that impresses people about the student demonstrations is the strong stand that some members of the faculty are taking on the issues.

I was on the campus of Northham- nesty University and ran into a professor who was trying to stop his nose from bleeding. His clothes were torn up and he was walking with a pronounced limp.

"What happened, Professor?" I asked, as I helped him search for his glasses.

"The militant students just took over my office and threw me down the stairs."

"Why, that's terrible," I said.

"From *my* point of view it is, but I think we have to look at it from *their* point of view. Why did they throw me down the stairs? Where have we, as faculty, failed them?"

"Are you going to press charges?"

"On the contrary. If I pressed charges, I would only be playing into the hands of the repressive forces outside the university who would like nothing better than to see the students arrested for assault."

"But they did assault you?"

"Yes. I have to admit I was

"Say, Professor, isn't that the philosophy building going up in flames?"

"I believe it is. Now, why did they have to go and set fire to the philosophy building?"

"I was going to ask you that."

"I'm not quite sure, because I haven't seen any of the students since they threw me down the stairs. My guess is that it probably has to do with something the administration and the students are at odds about."

"But that's a terrible thing to do."

"I don't think we should make judgments until all facts are in. I would say burning down a philosophy building could be interpreted as an unlawful act. At the same time, there are moments when an unlawful act can bring about just reforms."

"But the books, the records, the papers are all going up in smoke. Shouldn't we at least call the fire department?"

"I don't believe the fire department should be called until the faculty has met and voted on what course of action should be taken. There are times when a fire department can only inflame a situation. We should also hear from the students who started the fire and get their side of it. After all, they have as much stake in the university as anyone else, and if they don't want a philosophy building, we should at least listen to their arguments."

"I never thought of it that way," I admitted. "Professor, I know you can't see very well without your glasses, but I believe the militant students over at the quadrangle are building a scaffold. They wouldn't hang anyone, would they?"

"They haven't before," the professor said. "But it's quite possible that this is their way of seeking a confrontation with the establishment."

As we were talking, a group of students rushed up and grabbed the professor. "We got one here," the ringleader shouted. "Get the rope."

"Don't worry, Professor," I shouted as I was pushed away by the mob. "I'll get the police."

"I wish you wouldn't," he said calmly, as the students led him toward the scaffold. "If we don't let the students try new methods of activism, they'll never know for themselves which ones work and which ones are counterproductive."



"That's not the president hanging in effigy... that's the president."

surprised about that. But there was one heartening note. As they threw me down the stairs, one of the students yelled, 'It isn't you, Professor. It's the system.'"

"That must have made you feel better."

"As I was tumbling down, the thought did occur to me that at least there was nothing personal in it."

# Los Angeles Times

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1968

Section F-7

## 'Spiro! You Didn't!--Oh, You Did? Well, Then...'

BY ART BUCHWALD

One of the reasons it is said that Richard Nixon selected Spiro Agnew as his running mate is that the Maryland governor would not offend anyone. At the time, Nixon didn't realize that Gov. Agnew might turn out to be his "seventh crisis."

The former Vice President, who has been running a very restrained campaign, called up Agnew when he got back from Hawaii.

"Hi there, Spiro. How was your trip?"

"Just great, Dick. I got a lot of press in the islands."

"We read it here, Spiro. Every word of it. Say, Spiro, let me ask you something. Did you *have* to call a reporter a 'fat Jap' on your way to Hawaii? I mean, couldn't you have waited until you got back to the mainland?"

★

"Aw, heck, Dick, that story was played up. We always call that fellow the 'fat Jap' around the State House in Annapolis. It's a term of endearment."

"There's a feeling here among people of Japanese descent that it was a slur on their descendants."

"I'll admit it didn't sound so good in print, but I apologized, didn't I?"

"You did, Spiro, and I'm grateful. Now let me ask you about your reference to the Polish people in Chicago. You didn't call them 'Polacks,' did you? I mean, you were misquoted, weren't you?"

"No, Dick, I did call them 'Polacks,' but I meant it affectionately. Like I'd call you a WASP. You wouldn't get mad at that, would you?"

"I wouldn't, Spiro, but I'm not Polish."

"I think people are losing their sense of humor, Dick. I think we should call a spade a spade."

"Please, Spiro, I beg you. Don't ever use that expression again."

"Oops, I'm sorry, Dick."

"Where are you going now, Spiro?"

"I'm going down to Harlem, and talk to the Spic . . . I mean the Puerto Ricans."

"Spiro, you've been waging a great campaign but I'm pleading with you to be more careful with the way you refer to minorities. We need them badly if we're going to win in the cities."

"You can count on me, Dick. If we can get the Micks in Boston, the Krauts in Milwaukee, the Chinks in San Francisco and the wetbacks in El Paso, we'll be home free."

"Spiro, will you stop it? I know you've used those names in the locker room, but they just don't sound right in public. Now say after me, Irish-Americans, German-Americans, Chinese-Americans and Mexican-Americans."

★

"You know, Dick, I'm getting the feeling you don't trust me."

"I do trust you, Spiro. Would I have selected you as my running mate if I didn't trust you?"

"You didn't even know who I was."

"Will you stop, Spiro? I'm not asking much. I'm just asking you not to use slang terms about nationalities during a presidential election campaign."

"OK. OK. If that's the way you feel about it, I'll go back to talking about law and order."

"You wouldn't want to add 'justice' to that phrase, would you?"

"Good heavens, Dick. Everyone knows when I speak about law and order I mean justice."

"Yes, Spiro, just as they know when you say 'Polacks' you mean Polish people. Spiro, I don't want to complain, but people are starting to talk about you."

"Well, you wanted me to become a household name, didn't you?"



# Batman Day at White House

BY ART BUCHWALD 3/14/66

"When all else falls, the President of the United States still has one secret weapon which he and he alone has the power to use. One night last week, when all else failed, the President decided to use it."

Lights up—we see a phone and hear it ringing.

Suddenly Batman comes out on stage and walks over to the phone. He picks it up. "Yes, chief. You want to speak to Valenti? He's in the Bat-room . . . Just a minute. I'll get him."

★

Jack Valenti, dressed as Robin, comes out on the stage.

"Hello, chief, this is Robin. Robin Valenti. Yes, I know—I changed my name to Robin so Marvin Watson wouldn't be able to trace my telephone calls . . . What's that? Holy Fulbright! You'd better speak to the Batman." As he hands the phone to Batman, he says, "He wants us to go to Vietnam."

The Batman grabs the phone and says to Robin, "He must be out of his mind." Then he speaks into the phone, "Yes, chief, but chief, yes, I know, chief . . . But I'm 4-F. I've got psychological problems. Why else would I be wearing leotards?"

Robin: "Tell him I've got a bad knee."

★

Batman: "Robin has a bad knee. Why don't you send Cassius Clay?"

The Batman hangs up. Turns to Robin. "He says if we don't go, he'll get us on income taxes."

Robin: "Holy J. Edgar Hoover! He must know about the money we kept from the Brink's robbery."

"Well, Robin, we better see what the computer says."

They go over to the computer. Batman says, "If your name was Ho, where would you go?"

Robin: "Ho—go—I would go to Hanoi. But it doesn't rhyme."

Batman: "Good thinking, Boy Wonder. That's how Ho has fooled everyone. Now if you played a Gong, where would it clong?"

★

Robin: "In the Viet Cong!"

Batman: "Robin, I think Ho is behind the Viet Cong."

Robin: "Holy McNamara! We better tell Dean Rusk."

Batman: "Wait, Robin. Rusk has enough problems as it is. We'd better take care of Ho ourselves."

Robin: "But how?"

Batman: "Let's see what the computer says." Batman takes out card.

Robin: "What does it say?"

Batman: "By all means, escalate."

Robin: "Holy Joe Alsop! Look, there's another card."

Batman takes second card. "Get out of Vietnam."

Robin: "Holy Walter Lippmann! There's a third card."

★

Batman reads third card. "Bomb Hanoi."

Robin says: "Holy Goldwater!"

Batman reads fourth card. "Take it to the United Nations."

Robin: "Holy Goldberg!"

Batman: "We're in trouble, Robin! I'm not about to go to Vietnam. I was a veteran in World War II."

Robin: "And I'm not about to go to Vietnam. I went to the University of California at Berkeley."

Batman: "But how can we get out of it?"

Robin: "Holy Bill Moyers! I think I've got it. If we announce the President is sending us to Vietnam before he announces it, he'll get so mad he won't send us."

Batman: "Robin, that's good thinking. What's Drew Pearson's telephone number?"

ART BUCHWALD

2/8/66

## Gravity Bomb--Who's Pulling for It?

WASHINGTON—It has just been reported to a group of American physicists that a new "gravity bomb" equal to 1 million H-bombs could someday be built.

At the moment it is impractical because of size and cost as well as a lack of a triggering device, but they said the H-bomb was impractical a few years ago, too.

★

The important thing is that in the next 10 years many countries will be developing atomic bombs and H-bombs and the countries that now possess these bombs will no longer have the prestige and position they hold in world affairs today.

Therefore, the gravity bomb could be the answer to those who want to stay ahead in the nuclear arms race.

The big fear in the world today is that China, France, Israel, Egypt, India and Monaco may all become nuclear powers.

And the question is how do you settle disputes when everyone has an H-bomb?

The answer is the gravity bomb. No country is going to start any trouble with us when they know that if they use the H-bomb we would use a bomb 1 million times more powerful.

The only two nations who have the capacity to build the gravity bomb are the United States and the Soviet Union. But the fear is that if one country gets its gravity bomb built first the other country might feel endangered. The best way to resolve this is for the United

States, who will probably get its bomb built first, to allow the Soviet Union to steal its secrets.

This could easily be done by inviting Dr. Klaus Fuchs back to the United States to work on our bomb. Dr. Fuchs would pass on the secret to the Russians who would then develop their own gravity bomb and the balance of power in the world would be saved.

It is possible that some way would have to be worked out to dramatize the effectiveness of the G-bomb. Since you couldn't very well test it on the earth, the best way to show people the power of the bomb might be to blow up the moon. Everyone could see it and we don't really need the moon much anyway.

Because of its size and power, the United States and the Soviet Union would have to reassure the non-gravity-bomb nations that they would only use the G-bomb as a last

resort, if the other side used it first. We could still fight small wars with H-bombs but only a madman would think of getting into a war with the G-bomb.

There will be a great deal of pressure from our allies for their own stockpile of G-bombs, but it would be a mistake or us to give in to them, just as it would be a mistake for the Russians to turn over their G-bomb to the Chinese.

★

France and China might threaten to build their own G-bombs, but scientists believe it would take them at least 10 years to develop them. By this time we will have discovered the F-bomb, which will be one million times more powerful than the G-bomb.

So, even if the other countries do eventually find out the secret of the G-bomb, they still will not possess the ultimate weapon. That is the beauty of science.

# Little Details in Big Picture

BY ART BUCHWALD 2/27/68

The Honolulu meeting was a turning point for the war in Vietnam. President Johnson and Premier Ky spelled out the goals of our commitment there, and these are now being transmitted to our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen. But the indoctrination is going rather slow and the sergeants are having a hard time explaining the new policy.

"All right, you meat heads. We are now going to discuss why we're fighting in Vietnam. Rosenbloom, why do you think we're fighting in Vietnam?"

"To beat the hell out of the blanket-blank Viet Cong, Sergeant."

"No, Rosenbloom, you're wrong. It's now going to discuss why we're fighting in Vietnam. Now, Petrosanni, how will we achieve this goal?"

"By killing every blanket-blank Viet Cong we can find."

"I'm surprised at you, Petrosanni. We will achieve this goal by winning over the natives through public works, education, and good deeds. You had your hand up, Reilly?"

★

"What do we do with these mortars and flamethrowers?"

"We use them to show the South Vietnamese people that we will not be pushed out by the North Vietnamese. Every time we fire our flamethrowers, we are renewing our pledge to fight oppression, poverty, and disease in Southeast Asia. We can only win this war by getting the confidence of the populace. Now, how do we do this?"

"By bombing the hell out of the towns and villages where the Viet

Cong are supposed to be hanging out."

"Exactly, but we must explain to the people why we're bombing their towns and villages. How do we explain it, McPherson?"

"Beats me."

"We explain it by explaining the domino theory. We tell the people that, if South Vietnam falls, then Thailand will fall and then Malaysia and pretty soon all of Southeast Asia will be under the domination of the Communists. What is it, O'Toole?"

★

"You mean the people won't mind their homes being bombed and their rice fields being burned if we explain it to them afterwards?"

"Right. Once you put people in on the big picture, then their troubles will seem infinitesimal in comparison. Zwacki, you had your hand up."

"Sarge, I would like to know how you tell the good Vietnamese from the bad Vietnamese."

"It's very simple. When you see a native, you yell, 'Nuts to Ho Chi Minh.' If he fires at you, you know he's with the Viet Cong."

"That could be dangerous, Sarge. For example, yesterday Condon got all banged up doing just that. He lost his helmet and his rifle and he wound up in the hospital."

"What happened?"

"Well, he saw this native and he yelled at him, 'Nuts to Ho Chi Minh,' and the native started firing at him, so Condon fired back."

"Then the Viet Cong guy yelled, 'Nuts to LBJ,' and as Condon and the Viet Cong were shaking hands, a big truck ran over them."

A. F. BUCHWALD

11/18/66

# No Answer Unquestioned

WASHINGTON — Bill Moyers, the able White House press secretary, revealed in a candid television interview this week that he had on occasion "planted" questions with reporters in advance of a Presidential press conference. He did it, he explained, because "you never can tell what's going to happen in one of these press conferences and I wanted to be certain that the questions that the President did have on his mind, and for which he was prepared to deal in a substantive way, did get asked."

★  
For years Presidential press secretaries have been "planting" questions with reporters to make life easier for their bosses, and there is nothing really wrong with it except that, as the problems President Johnson faces become more complex, more questions are going to have to be planted. Eventually there will be no time left for questions that the re-

porters have thought up themselves.

I can see in a few months from now Mr. Moyers saying to the President, "your press conference is all set, sir, Jack will ask you the spontaneous question on Vietnam, Phil will ask you the spontaneous question on balance of payments, Bob will ask you about civil rights, and Nancy will ask you how your health is." "Isn't anybody going to ask me about Lady Bird's beautification program?"

"We'll ask Joe to question you about it."

"By the way, what happened at the last press conference? Somebody posed a question, and I didn't even know he was going to ask it."

"That was a slip-up, sir. You were trying to recognize Marianne, because I had asked her to ask you about the low rate of unemployment in the United States, and the reporter sitting behind her thought you had recognized him. Before I could stop him he got the question out. What

I've done this time is plant questions around the people who have been asked to ask questions, so in case someone else asks a question by mistake, you'll be prepared for it."

"That's good thinking, Bill."

★

"Now, what we're doing at this press conference to facilitate matters, Mr. President, is we're putting the answers to the spontaneous questions on the teleprompter. Therefore, you have to call on the people in order."

"That makes sense. I'd hate to be asked about Vietnam and give an answer that had to do with Luci's engagement. I did have another problem last time and that was the TV lights were so bright I couldn't see the people who were supposed to ask me the questions I had the answers to."

"We've reserved the first four rows for reporters with the planted questions. What I would suggest is that you look all around the room, but only

recognize someone in the first four rows."

"You seem to have covered all the bases, Bill. Have you planted any questions I can get a laugh out of?"

"I gave only one to Sarah McClendon on your eagles, but I told her to ask it only if we had time."

"Where should I insert

this sentence about my belief in a free press and the public's right to know what their President has on his mind?"

"Between the spontaneous question on steel prices and the spontaneous question on Arthur Goldberg's visit to the Pope."