

DEMOCRATS

Carter's Road Show

Though the suspense-filled Republican struggle has temporarily forced Jimmy Carter out of the spotlight, the Democratic presidential nominee is in no danger of reverting to the "Jimmy who?" of pre-primary days. He is, in fact, continuing to exude—and to convey—such an aura of confidence that editors of the *Scribner-Bantam English Dictionary* have thrown caution to the winds. For a new edition to appear next January, they drafted an entry reading: "Car-ter, James /kärt'ər/ n (1924-) 39th president of the U.S. 1977- ." Although the listing can be deleted if Carter should lose the election on Nov. 2, Carter has no intention of putting the editors to that trouble.

While the G.O.P. was preparing for its Kansas City showdown, Carter's campaign had all the characteristics of a new play being tried out on the road before its Broadway opening. The reviews were generally good but not overwhelming. In swings to Manchester, N.H., Washington, D.C., Atlanta, and Charleston, W. Va., the nominee shored up his liberal credentials (actually, he prefers to call them populist), attacked the Republicans as corrupt, incompetent and insensitive, and referred to the "Nixon-Ford Administration." He evoked applause from an American Bar Association audience when he vowed "to take a new broom to Washington and do everything possible to sweep the house of Government clean."

Wooing Nader. Carter's road show was boffo with Consumer Advocate Ralph Nader, who proclaimed Carter "a breath of fresh air." During a visit with Carter in Plains, Ga., the generally aloof Nader even allowed himself to be roped into umpiring a softball game—the only one Pitcher Carter has lost in eight outings. (Joking about Nader's performance as an umpire, Carter later quipped: "Both sides said he was lousy—and I can't disagree with that.") Two days after the Plains visit, Nader introduced Carter at a Public Citizen forum in Washington, at which the nominee endorsed many of the ideas Nader has pushed for a decade: stronger antitrust enforcement, an end to the "sweetheart" arrangement whereby many federal appointees come to Government agencies from the very industries they are supposed to regulate, tax reform, and the need for a consumer protection agency.

Another friendly pilgrim to Plains, California Governor Jerry Brown, told reporters that the man he had beaten in several primaries can not only carry California but "can carry any state in the nation." Do Carter and Brown like each other? Observed Brown: "Well, I don't know . . . I try to work with everybody, and as far as I know, I think Carter is a good person. I



UMPIRE RALPH NADER SIZING UP JIMMY CARTER DURING SOFTBALL GAME IN PLAINS, GA. A promise of a new broom in Washington to sweep the Government clean.

like him and want to do all I can."

There were a couple of sour notes. Interpreting a poll by Patrick Caddell as rating John Connally low on integrity, Carter in an interview needlessly added that only Alabama Governor George Wallace ranked lower. The remark recalled similarly gratuitous comments that Carter had made during the primaries about Hubert Humphrey and Ted Kennedy, and a number of the Georgian's Southern supporters let him know that they were unhappy about it. Carter lost no time in telephoning Wallace in Montgomery, Ala., to apologize.

Carter also spoke scornfully of a practice pursued by Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford (and quite a few other Presidents, though Carter neglected to say so): appointing "unsuccessful candidates" to cushy Government posts. One of the appointees specifically included in a staff-produced paper backing up the generalized claim was CIA Director George Bush, who went from a losing Texas senatorial campaign to become U.N. ambassador, then Republican National Committee chairman, then U.S. liaison chief in Peking, and now holds the nation's top intelligence job. Shortly after the speech, Bush came to Plains for a six-hour briefing of Carter on national security matters. Carter later told reporters that the use of Bush's name was the result of a staffer's mistake, and he publicly apologized to the CIA director. At the same time, however, he criticized another Republican appointee, FBI Director Clarence Kelley, for losing control of the bureau and strongly hinted that he would go if Carter becomes President.

Still, compared with the raucous Re-

publicans, Carter was making good progress preparing for the campaign. His national campaign staff—now consisting of 325 paid workers but scheduled to grow to 700 or 800 by the fall—has moved into new headquarters: three upper floors of the 24-story Colony Square building on Atlanta's Peachtree Street.

One indication of Carter's strength emerged not from his own camp but from the embattled White House. Should Ford win the nomination, the President's strategists said, he might challenge Carter to a series of debates. That would be a switch. It has usually been the challenger who has tried—generally without success—to persuade the incumbent to debate. But then, not many challengers have enjoyed a 2-to-1 margin over the incumbent in the early polls.

CRIME

Deep Six for Johnny

They buried him in the classic style. His body was sealed in an empty 55-gal. oil drum. Heavy chains were coiled around the container, and holes were punched in the sides. Then the drum was dumped in the waters off Florida. It might have stayed on the bottom indefinitely—except that the gases caused by the decomposing body gave the drum buoyancy and floated it to the surface. Three fishermen found it in Dumfoundling Bay near North Miami Beach. Police checked out the fingerprints of the victim with the FBI and made the identification: John Roselli, 71, a Mafia soldier of fortune who had been involved in some amazing capers—and made

THE NATION

the mistake of telling about them.

Someone had asphyxiated the old man, which should not have been hard, since he was suffering from emphysema. Suspicion quickly centered on the Mafia itself. During the final years of his life, Roselli made two cardinal errors. He called public attention to the operations of the Mafia and, much worse, he betrayed one of its members.

In June 1975, Roselli was called to testify before a special Senate Intelligence Committee that was looking into the excesses of the CIA. Customarily, members of the Mafia clam up when they get within 100 miles of a Senate committee. Roselli not only talked—he provided the details of a startling story.

ered by the CIA. For reasons that remain unclear, the mobsters muffed the job.

Five days before Roselli's testimony, Giancana had been murdered in his Oak Park, Ill., home by seven .22 bullets fired at close range into his face and neck. As it happened, Giancana was due to be called before the same Senate committee. The FBI now believes that Giancana was killed not because of his CIA-Castro connection but as a result of a bitter feud over dividing the Mob's spoils in Chicago.

The Third Man. During his testimony, Roselli not only talked freely about Giancana but also claimed that a third person took part in the anti-

in her words, a "close, personal" relationship with President John F. Kennedy. The committee, trying to determine if Kennedy had known about the CIA's plans to eliminate Castro, wondered if Exner might have told the President about the activities of Roselli and Giancana. The investigation turned up no evidence that she had.

Roselli was one of a breed that is dying off—usually by murder. Born Filippo Sacco in Italy, he entered the U.S. illegally as a child and remained in trouble for most of his life. In the '20s, he was a recruit in Al Capone's Chicago gang, reportedly as an arsonist, then moved on to bookmaking and numbers.

In the late '30s, Roselli became the Chicago Mob's man in Hollywood and was subsequently jailed for three years for plotting, with seven others, to extort \$1 million from movie companies. The muscle: threatening to use a Mafia-controlled union of stagehands to close down production unless the studios paid up. Even so, the dapper, debonair Roselli remained a luminary of sorts in Hollywood. He married a starlet, got a piece of two nightclubs, and helped produce two crime films in the late 1940s, *Canyon City* and *He Walked by Night*. Says a producer who knew him at the time: "He had direct knowledge about prisons and cops."

In the early '50s, Roselli even became a member of the Friars Club, Hollywood's frat house. He was backed by none other than Comedian Georgie Jessel, the club's founder. "There were other members who had served sentences," Jessel recalled last week. "I said anyone who had paid his debt to society was O.K., so I made him a Friar."

Fleeing Friars. Roselli got along famously with the Jessel-Sinatra crowd, but again temptation got in his way. In 1968 he and four others were convicted of swindling members of the Friars—including Comedians Phil Silvers and Zeppo Marx and Singer Tony Martin—out of some \$400,000 by cheating at cards. The elaborate fleecing system involved observers in the attic who peered through peepholes to read the cards of the players. They then flashed coded electronic signals to a member of the ring seated at the table, who picked up the messages on equipment he wore on a girdle beneath his clothes.

Before going to jail to serve eleven months for that caper, Roselli was bold enough to betray the Mafia in 1970. At the time, a federal grand jury was investigating charges that the Mob had illegally concealed its interest in the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas. Roselli, by then the Chicago Mob's top man in Las Vegas, talked about the scheme after being given a pledge of immunity. One of the men he discussed was Chicago's Tony Accardo.

After getting out of jail in 1971, Roselli again supervised the Chicago Mob's gambling interests in Las Vegas, while living quietly with his sister, Mrs. Jo-



JOHN ROSELLI LEAVING HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE
Stuffed into an oil drum, Mafia-style, for talking too much.

Roselli described how he and his longtime mentor, onetime Chicago Mafia Chief Momo Salvatore ("Sam") Giancana, had been recruited by the CIA in the early '60s to assassinate Fidel Castro. It made a kind of amoral sense for the agency to turn to the Mob: when the Cuban leader took power, he closed down the Mafia's big moneymaking operations in Havana; Roselli had been running the swank Sans Souci gambling casino there. Roselli told the Senators that he also saw the killing of Castro as a "patriotic" endeavor, something he could do for his country. Both poisoned cigars and poisoned pills were consid-

ered by the CIA. For reasons that remain unclear, the mobsters muffed the job. Five days before Roselli's testimony, Giancana had been murdered in his Oak Park, Ill., home by seven .22 bullets fired at close range into his face and neck. As it happened, Giancana was due to be called before the same Senate committee. The FBI now believes that Giancana was killed not because of his CIA-Castro connection but as a result of a bitter feud over dividing the Mob's spoils in Chicago.

Three months after Roselli's first appearance before the Senate committee, he was called back. This time he told another startling story: how he and Giancana had shared the affections of an attractive brunette named Judith Campbell Exner at a time when she also had,

seph Daigle, in Plantation, Fla., just west of Fort Lauderdale. He was, his neighbors said, a nice, silver-haired gentleman who liked to walk his poodle and talk about such local worries as the caterpillars. Although he had arthritis of the spine, he played golf regularly. After another local underworld character was killed recently on the links, Roselli took the precaution of never playing the same course twice in a row. Still, he rejected his lawyer's advice to hire a bodyguard. Asked Johnny Roselli: "Why would they want to kill an old man like me?"

Aside from his proclivity for disclosing Mafia secrets, Roselli could have been killed, federal investigators suggest, because some members of his old Chicago Mob—including Tony Accardo—felt he had been keeping more than his share of the Las Vegas boodle. Following another theory, some Senators who had once laughed at his jokes during his sessions on the Hill called on the Department of Justice to find out why he was murdered. U.S. Attorney General Edward H. Levi ordered the FBI to determine whether Johnny Roselli's testimony about the CIA plot to get Castro might somehow have led to his end in an oil drum bobbing on the surface of Dumfoundling Bay.

TRIALS

Three for the Books

After long and contentious trials in California courts, verdicts were handed down last week in three well-publicized cases involving social revolution and violence:

THE HARRISES. The defendant began smiling as the foreman of the jury in the Los Angeles courtroom declared him innocent of six counts of assault with a deadly weapon. He continued to smile as the jury reduced two charges of armed robbery to the lesser crime of "taking a vehicle"—the term usually applied to joyriding. Then William Harris stopped smiling. Harris, 31, and his wife Emily, 29, listened impassively as they were found guilty of two counts of kidnaping and one of armed robbery for incidents connected with the shooting fracas in 1974 at Mel's Sporting Goods Store in Los Angeles. When sentenced later this month, the two still defiant members of the Symbionese Liberation Army—and Patty Hearst's old traveling companions—could be sent to jail for life.

The Harrises intend to appeal, maintaining that the jury was prejudiced against them. Defense Attorney Leonard Weinglass insisted that the five men and seven women who debated the Harrises' fate for 8½ days had been "tainted." Two members of the jury panel, who were not selected for the final twelve, accused Juror Ronald F. Pruyn of saying in advance of the trial that

the Harrises' guilt was "a foregone conclusion," a claim that Pruyn later denied on the stand. An old newspaper carrying a story on Patty Hearst's kidnaping was found in a men's room used by members of the jury. While the jury was being selected, three persons—who did not become jurors themselves—were seen by some chosen jurors making models of nooses on gallows. Despite Weinglass's emphasis on these events, legal experts pointed out that appeals are seldom won on such grounds, particularly when a strong case is made against the defendants.

The Harrises' legal problems do not end with this case. They still must stand trial in Oakland on a federal charge: taking part in the February 1974 kidnaping of Patty, the violent event that began the heiress's involvement with the tiny sect of S.L.A. terrorists. As for Patty, she is still undergoing psychiatric testing in San Diego while awaiting sentencing for bank robbery. She also remains under indictment on the same charges brought against the Harrises as a result of the incident at Mel's Sporting Goods Store.

THE SAN QUENTIN SIX.

After a trial of 16 months costing more than \$2 million—both California records—a jury in San Rafael finally made up its mind about the San Quentin Six, a group of convicts accused of having taken part in a spectacular, bloody and unsuccessful escape attempt on Aug. 21, 1971. Three were convicted, three acquitted. The trial followed a series of violent events centering on George Jackson, a black prisoner and social revolutionary whose bitter writings about life behind bars became a popular book (*Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters of George Jackson*).

In 1970 Jackson and two other inmates at California's Soledad Prison (the "Soledad Brothers") were accused of murdering a guard. Before they went on trial, Jackson's younger brother Jonathan led a raid on the Marin County courthouse in an unsuccessful attempt to capture hostages to exchange for the trio. Jonathan Jackson, two convicts and the judge were all killed. A year later, George Jackson himself was killed while leading an attempt to flee San Quentin. During the struggle, three guards were shot or choked to death. Three others suffered throat wounds, but survived to give dramatic, husky-voiced testimony at the trial. Johnny L. Spain was found guilty of murder and conspiring to escape. David Johnson and Hugo Pinell

were convicted of assault. All three could be given life in prison, but Spain and Pinell are already under that sentence, and Johnson is serving a 15-year maximum term for burglary. Still under indictment for conspiring in the escape attempt: activist Attorney Stephen Bingham, the nephew of New York Congressman Jonathan Bingham and grandson of a former Connecticut Governor and U.S. Senator. The state charges that Bingham slipped a 9-mm. Spanish Astra pistol to Jackson, who hid it under an Afro-style wig and used it in the assault. A fugitive from justice, Bingham is thought to be in Canada.

THE MANSON "FAMILY." The state court of appeals ruled that Leslie Van



MANSON GIRLS (VAN HOUTEN, RIGHT) ON WAY TO COURT
A new trial for one of the Manson girls.

Houten, 27, deserved a new trial on charges that she had joined five members of Charles Manson's bloodthirsty cult in killing Actress Sharon Tate and six others in 1969. The court found that Van Houten had been denied a fair trial because her lawyer, Ronald Hughes, disappeared while the case was in progress; he has still not been found. But the three-judge panel denied the appeals of Manson, Susan Atkins and Patricia Krenwinkel, who claimed that pretrial publicity and improper conduct by the prosecution had denied them justice. Manson, Atkins and Krenwinkel had all been given life sentences earlier.