

Post 1/25/96

## The Hole-in-the-Head Gang

**T**he decision to hold the country hostage unless they got what they wanted was made by the congressional gang that couldn't shoot straight.

Their ransom demands included a balanced budget in seven years. "Unless President Clinton gives in to us, we will bulldoze every government agency in Washington," said Lucky Devonshire. "It's time for fiscal conservatives to play hardball."

When people realized that they weren't kidding, negotiations with the hostage-takers began in earnest.

"What would it take for you to release the government?" Sam Dumpster asked.

"We fully intend to wreck every program established since the Roosevelt days and ensure that welfare, Medicare and Medicaid are taken out on the Mall and shot."

Sam said, "You're holding

300,000 workers hostage to make a point. Does that bother you?"

"Not as much as you might think. If that's what it takes to get a balanced budget, so be it. The hostages are bureaucrats and are familiar with pain and suffering."

"Do you think that this will have any effect on the outcome of the elections?"

"I doubt it. The American people are used to hostages being held as long as it's no one in their immediate family. We're not going to kill them or anything like that."

"Isn't there some way of balancing the budget without using such drastic methods?"

"Probably, but using reason is not our style. We promised the voters back home that we would get a deal even if it meant closing everything down, including the Army, Navy and Coast Guard. This time the anti-government people are going to the

mattresses."

"Isn't it a crime to hold so many people hostage with no pay?"

"We're members of Congress, and we can do anything we like. We warned the president that if he didn't play ball we would take prisoners."

"If I worked for a government agency, I wouldn't like to be taken captive by a bunch of freshman legislators without any experience. It's very undignified, even if they are sucking up to me with a tax cut."

"We won't detain our prisoners forever. As a matter of fact we are thinking of shipping the hostages to the 50 states so they become a local problem."

"But they didn't do anything wrong. Why are you taking it out on them?"

"Who else can we take it out on? Everybody understands that we had to burn down the capital to save it."