

Capitol Punishment

Well,
Henry,
They
Say
It's
Very
Nice
In
Argentina
This
Time
Of Year,
And Pat's
Always
Wanted
To See
Tibet

By Art Buchwald

President Nixon's game plan for the summer is to stay out of Washington as much as he can. After the Middle East and the Soviet Union he went to Key Biscayne. Then he stopped in Washington to feed the dog and went out to San Clemente.

After San Clemente he expects to go to Japan. After Japan it's anybody's guess.

"Ron, get me Henry on the phone."

"Yes sir, Mr. President . . . Henry's in Rio de Janeiro watching the World Champion Wrestling Matches."

"Well, get him for me anyway . . ."

"Here he is, Mr. President."

"Henry, this is the President. Have you given any more thought to where I can go after Japan? . . . Hmmn, you think New Guinea? . . . No, I've never been to New Guinea. I'd like that very much. Shall we offer them a nuclear reactor? . . . You think they'd settle for a plain kerosene generator? . . . Good, I'll order one up . . . Okay, so we go to New Guinea. Where else? . . . Borneo? Why am I going to Borneo? . . . For SALT talks . . . I see. Borneo has the best salt mines in the Far East . . . You figure if we can't make a SALT treaty with the Soviet Union we can make one with Indonesia? That's using the old head, Henry. Okay that takes me into September. What then? . . . What's that? . . . I could take a 90-day cruise on the SS France? . . . I know the food is delicious, Henry, but how do I justify taking a cruise at that time? . . . To visit Hong Kong and encourage trade with the United States? . . . Ron says it will play in Peoria . . . What do I do after the cruise? . . . You want me to climb Mount Everest?

"Let me ask you this, Henry. Why would I want to climb Mt. Everest? . . . To be the first President of the United States to hold a summit talk on a summit? . . . I like it . . . All right we're into the spring . . . What do I do then? . . . I go back to Washington? What on earth for? Henry, you know I hate Washington. . . Well wouldn't you hate Washington if they were saying all those terrible things about you? . . . They're saying them about you too? . . . I know, Henry, I'm sorry . . . Okay, you think I should go back to Washington for a week, just so people feel I'm working on the domestic problems of the country . . . But I'm warning you, Henry, I'm not going to stay for the weekend.

"Where do I go after the week in Washington? . . . You think you can get me on the Film Festival Jury in Cannes? . . . Will they be showing 'Patton'? . . . Oh that's too bad . . . No don't refuse it—I'll take Pat and the kids . . . Is there any country close to Cannes I can stop off for a rest? . . . Spain? . . . That's a perfect idea. The Spanish have always liked me and I think Franco will go all out to see we have a good reception . . . To make sure, I'll give him a fleet of helicopters . . . Now we have to think about next summer . . . What about going back to Russia? . . . We can't do it? It's Brezhnev's turn to visit the United States? . . . Does that mean I have to come back to Washington next summer? Oh, Henry, is there any way we can get out of it? . . . Maybe we could leave a note for him and tell him Pat and I had to go to Peking . . . You don't think that would work? . . . All right I'll come back for the meeting, but he'd better make it short.

"Look, this call is costing money. When will I see you? . . . After the World Wrestling Championships, you're going to Spoleto for the Concerts? . . . I see, and then the Horse Show in Ireland? . . . Right, I got you . . . And then the Tunisian Tennis Finals, and after that you're going to the dog sled races in Alaska? You have a pretty exciting summer ahead of you . . . Listen if you're ever in Washington I'll give you my number . . . I may not be here but the answering service will always know where I am. . . . Yes, I'll tell Nancy you're fine. Goodbye, Henry, and don't forget to write."