

Our Man Hoppe

Joe Sikspak
Extends an Invite

Arthur Hoppe

DEAR PRESIDENT: I, Joe Sikspak, American, take pen in hand to stick a seed or two in your ear.

First out, I want to say I think you done a real swell job over there in Moscow and Peking and wherever else it was you went, ironing your grievances, like we say in the Union, with those Commie bosses. And I sure hope you and the wife had a real nice time.

Now, to tell you the truth, all this stuff about missiles and trade agreements and space shots is pretty complicated. I'm not too sure I got all the details down on the deals you worked out.

But I seen you on the TV and from the way you were smiling, I figure you got the best of them. And speaking as an American, which I am, it sure made me proud.

The thing is, you must just about be running low on places to visit. That's what gave me this great idea. Now that you've visited Moscow, Peking and wherever else it was you went, how about visiting us?

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NOW, LOOK, I'm not saying we got any great sights to see. We got no Great Wall like they got in China. But the slag heap down back of the foundry's nothing you'd sneeze at.

And we got no Bullshy Ballet like they got in Moscow. But the Millard Fillmore High School's putting on "Time of Your Life" for the senior play and I think you and the wife would get a kick out of that.

Speaking of the wife, I see where she spent \$156 in half an hour in that gum store in Moscow. She could do better than that in 15 minutes down at Dinwiddie's Emporium. But you know how prices are around here. (No offense.)

But the main thing is grievances. I can

tell you really like ironing grievances and you're pretty darn good at it. Well, believe you me, we got more grievances than you could shake a stick at. You could find more grievances to iron around here in a day than you could in Moscow and Peking in six months. You could really have yourself a swell time.

I was down to Paddy's Place last night and I put it up to Paddy, himself. "Paddy," I says, "give me a Seven high and let's invite the President to come here to iron our grievances."

Now Paddy used to be an aerospace engineer, but he's got his blind side. "Impossible, Joe," he says. "No American President's had the courage to visit an American city for the past six years."

"Courage?" says I. "Didn't the President have the courage to go to Peking where he was alone and surrounded by 700 million heathen Chinese?"

"True," says Paddy.

"And didn't he have the courage," says I, "to go to Moscow where he was alone and surrounded by 250 million Commie Bolsheviks?"

"You're right, Joe," says Paddy. "But here there's a difference."

"What difference?" says I.

"Here," says Paddy, "he'd be surrounded by Americans."

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WELL, speaking as an American, which I am, I think it's a hell (excuse me) of a thing when an American President's safer being surrounded by Comies than being surrounded by Americans. Here's hoping you can prove Paddy wrong.

Yours Truly,
Joe Sikspak, American

P. S., R.S.V.P.