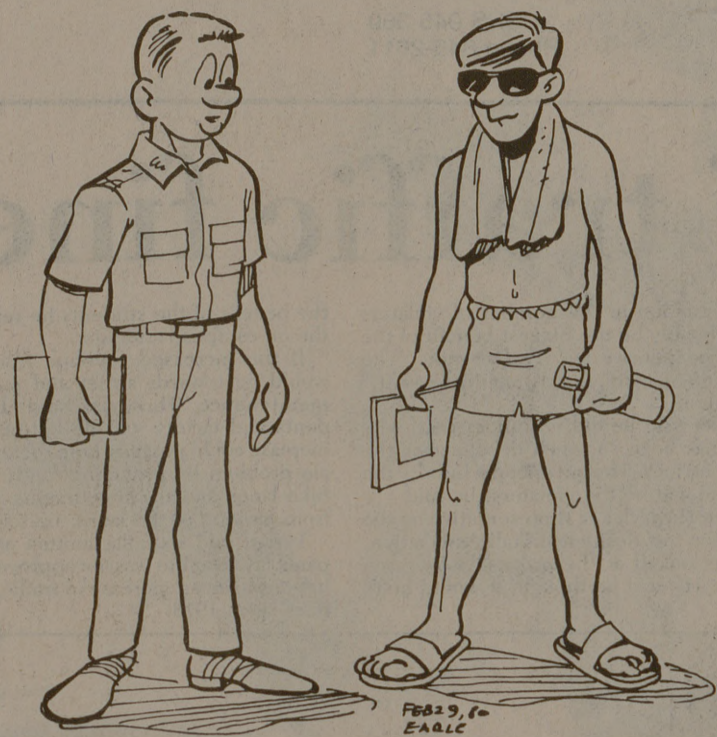


SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I guess it's fair to say that Spring has officially arrived."

OPINION

U.S. halting own downfall

Sen. Henry Jackson's Senate subcommittee on governmental affairs opened hearings on ways of keeping vital defense technology out of Soviet hands, with Jackson declaring: "What we haven't sold, we have given away in educational, governmental and commercial technical exchange programs. What we haven't sold or given away, they have stolen."

American-supplied computers were used to build military trucks. Subsequently some of the trucks were used in the invasion of Afghanistan.

A dismaying thought, isn't it — that the United States could be helping to finance its own demise, and that of the whole free world?

We see now, as we should have suspected all along, that the Soviets were buying — or stealing — our technology and laughing up their sleeves at us. The Yankees — always so trusting, so naive! What a joke on them, using trucks to help build to subjugate a country whose independence they value.

Jimmy Carter, finally understanding how far his trust had been betrayed, has tightened controls on technology exports to the Soviets. Yet more must be done.

Almost certainly some products will slip through — if only because, as the Soviets perpetually remind us, they are not above expropriation (their word for "theft"). We must do our best to make sure they get nothing from us the easy way.

The Dallas Morning News

the small society

by Brickman



THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday, from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer, when it is published on Tuesdays through Thursday.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year, \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of

MEMBER

- Editor Roy Bragg
- Associate Editor Keith Taylor
- News Editor Rusty Cawley
- Asst. News Editor Karen Cornelison
- Copy Editor Dillard Stone
- Sports Editor Mike Burrichter
- Focus Editor Rhonda Watters
- City Editor Louie Arthur
- Campus Editor Diane Blake
- Staff Writers Nancy Andersen, Tricia Brunhart, Angelique Copeland, Laura Cortez, Meril Edwards, Carol Hancock, Kathleen McElroy, Debbie Nelson, Richard Oliver, Tim Sager, Steve Sisney, Becky Swanson, Andy Williams
- Chief Photographer Lynn Blanco
- Photographers Lee Roy Leschper, Paul Childress, Ed Cummins, Steve Clark

Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 29, 1980

French, West German leaders disagree with Carter's methods

By ADALBERT DE SEGONZAC

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has provoked differences between the United States and its two most powerful West European friends, France and West Germany. But what Americans may misunderstand is that the French and West German leaders disagree with President Carter's methods rather than with his objectives.

In other words, both French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt share Carter's concern for the dangers to peace created by Soviet expansionism. They believe, however, that Carter is pursuing the wrong strategy by threatening action that he may not be able to carry out.

Moreover, they feel that Carter's beligerent new posture could jeopardize their own interests, which require a continuation of detente with the Russians.

Thus, while they publicly condemn Soviet behavior, Giscard and Schmidt are persuaded that a more effective approach to the crisis is to maintain a dialogue with the Kremlin.

At the same time, though, they consider that their lack of enthusiasm for the so-called Carter Doctrine in no way dilutes their alliance with the United States, which is the basis of their foreign policy.

This mixture of attitudes is subtle and complicated, and it seems to me that it requires a more careful explanation than that contained in many American press comments.

In the first place, the suggestion that France and West Germany do not support the United States is unsubstantiated by the evidence. They have strongly denounced Moscow, and even though France in particular opposes an embargo, it has no intention of bypassing the Carter administration by selling wheat to the Soviet Union.

Moreover, the public in both countries is overwhelmingly sympathetic to the firm new mood in America, representing as it does a welcome change from the years of uncertainty that followed the Vietnam war and the Watergate scandals.

Nevertheless, there is a pervasive feeling in France as well as in West Germany that President Carter, who has long been viewed as inexperienced and indecisive, is displaying more emotion than rationality in the present situation.

In part, too, many people here hold the view that Carter's past wooliness may have indirectly encouraged the Russians to estimate that they could intervene in Afghanistan with impunity. It is no secret, for example, that Schmidt privately expressed dismay at Carter's naive admission that the Soviet move had taught him a lesson.

The French and West Germans were further upset that Carter did not consult them in advance of his decision to adopt a tough line toward the Kremlin. Equally confusing to them is the fact that the President has not been specific about his plans to draw the line against a Soviet thrust into the Persian Gulf area.

These doubts are heightened, above all, by an awareness on the part of West Europeans that they would be especially vulnerable in the event that a conflict erupted between the United States and the Soviet Union. The current tensions also worry them because of their economic relations with the Russians and East Europeans.

Western Europe's economic success within recent years has been largely due to the opening of markets for its industrial goods in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Last year, for instance, French exports to the Soviet Union rose 42 percent, and the prospects for future trade are good.

Giscard, who is running for reelection next year, is inspired as well by political motives. His ruling majority depends on the backing of the Gaullists, who as claimants to the legacy of General Charles de Gaulle, insist that French policy be independent from that of the United States.

The West Germans, who also have lucrative economic links with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, are even more sensitive to the risks of confrontations. Among other things, they fear that a return to the spirit of the cold war may trigger another Berlin crisis and wreck their ties with East Germany, which have dramatically improved lately.

Schmidt's Social Democratic party is currently waging an election campaign against conservative adversaries who contend that detente has been an "illusion." Schmidt realizes, therefore, that renewed

friction with the Soviet Union is in his domestic foes.

Underlying this outlook is the apprehension shared by Giscard and Schmidt that Europe cannot afford of superpower rivalries. They object to U.S. decisions that they can play individual roles in the alliance.

Giscard, for instance, believes France can curb Soviet influence and he has demonstrated that by deploying French forces in Poland and Tunisia. He claims some credit for Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's recent criticism of the Russian alliance can best be served by dialogue with the Kremlin.

In Giscard's opinion, the West German, he holds, can perform a function — but, he tells, they they "keep cool."

The aim of all this is to compel the United States to yield, without resorting to force. So, in a sense, Giscard and Schmidt think that they can do for President what he cannot do for himself.

That could be an ambitious dream, mirrors their belief that, however guided Carter may be, they cannot stand alone and so defend their interests along with their own. (Segonzac, former Washington correspondent for France-Soir, writes on current affairs in France.)



'Ilk maiden ladie' allowed to speak freely on extra day in February

By DICK WEST

United Press International
For good or bad, 1980 may be the end of Leap Year as we have known it since the Middle Ages. Think back a moment to 1288.

In that auspicious year, according to the National Geographic Society, the Scottish parliament approved legislation worded thusly:

"It is statut and ordaint that for ilk yeare known as lepe yeare, ilk maiden ladie, of baith highe and lowe estait, shall hae libertie to bespeke ye man she likes."

The Geographic does not give us what lawmakers call the "legislative history" of that particular milestone in civil liberties. It is, however, fairly easy to reconstruct the

circumstances in which the Scottish parliament acted.

It may be assumed that ilk maiden ladie was getting fed up with waiting around for ye man to bespeke himself. And so the women's liberation movement was born.

As we know, progress in civil liberties is not accomplished by taking rights away from Group A and handing them over to Group B. Rather, Group B is accommodated by expanding the area in which a right may be exercised.

Had the parliament moved to deprive ye men of Scotland of some of their bespeking days by assigning them to ilk maiden ladies, chances are the legislation would have died on the vine.

But as luck would have it, another avenue was open. The Leap Year adjustment that Julius Caesar had made in the calendar about 45 B.C. afforded an opportunity to even things up between the sexes.

So, by act of parliament, ye men retained the right to bespeke 365 days every year and ilk maiden ladies were given libertie to bespeke every fourth year on a day ye men probably weren't using anyhow.

The new system of equality evidently worked pretty well. It soon spread to France and Italy and by 1600 had been incorporated into English common law. But some ilk maiden ladies are never satisfied.

Subsequent unrest possibly could have been avoided by again revising the calen-

dar so that ilk maiden ladies bespeking days in September, April and November as well as February.

If such a compromise was made, however, it didn't get very far. Court-packing in the Middle Ages may be as repugnant as court-packing today. In any event the calendar as it is, and the Equal Rights Amendment subsequently came into being.

The upshot is that this may be Feb. 29 with sexist connotations. ERA is ratified by the 1982 deadline no longer will be any restriction on maiden ladie bespeking.

For truly liberated women, even Leap Year.

THOTZ

