

opinion

Timeless advice on office sharing

by Dick West
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The government has undertaken a campaign to cut federal office space by 10 percent, giving each worker an average of 135 square feet.

The difficulty of getting agencies to cut back has been illustrated by one official with a colloquy from Shakespeare's "King Henry IV."

Arthur Barton, deputy assistant commissioner of the General Services Administration, which allocates working quarters, quoted this exchange between Glendower and Hotspur:

"I can call spirits from the vasty deep."
"Why so can I, or so can any man; but will they come when you do call for them?"

Barton obviously identifies with the latter line, uttered by Hotspur.

Well, the Immortal Bard is far from a one-way street, you know. The other side can quote from his works, too.

To see how government workers might feel about Barton's call for less vasty offices, let us think of Shakespeare as a middle echelon civil servant:

Mr. Shakespeare, what office workers complain most about being cramped?

"The spinsters and the knitters in the sun and the free maids that weave their thread with bones."

How many can filing cabinets and typing desks can you fit into 135 square feet?

"I have not kept my square; but that to come shall all be done by the rule. Hob, nob, is the word."

"Hob, nob" is two words, sir. It all

sounds terribly bureaucratic. What about office-sharing by executives?

"Two stars keep not their motion in one sphere."

Well, I assume the federal honchos need room for thinking and decision-making, not to mention shelves for books of quotations.

"They that stand high have many blasts to shake them. What private griefs they have, alas! I know not. We cannot all be masters."

But what if some highlevel bureaucrat did volunteer to cut the size of his office by 10 percent?

"Upon such sacrifices, my Cordelia, the gods themselves throw incense."

Please don't call me Cordelia, sir. With whom do you share an office?

"I cannot tell what the dickens his name is. A needy, hollow-eyed, sharp-looking wretch. He doth nothing but talk of his horse."

The two of you must be terribly cozy. Arm'd at points exactly, cap-a-pe."

Wow! Cap-a-pe must be even worse than cheek-by-jowl. No wonder you are reluctant to give up 10 percent.

"This was the most unkindest cut of all. Policy sits above conscience. I'll not budge an inch."

How would you describe the scramble for choice desk locations in the average government office?

"The weakest goes to the wall."

Not even a desk by a window, eh? What advice would you give government employees who work together at close quarters?

"Eat no onions nor garlic."

Thank you, Mr. Shakespeare.

Publishing rights get priority over justice

by Art Buchwald

"Louie the Louse, I am authorized to inform you of your rights. You are permitted to make one telephone call."

"Okay, I want to speak to the Heartongue Literary Agency. Hello, Heartongue? This is Louie the Louse. I think I got a good one for you. I heisted a Brinks truck of 20 million bucks, hijacked the Rolling Stones' private airplane and forged Cliff Robertson's name to a check for \$150,000. My attorney thinks it could be a 'Lit Guild Selection of the Month.'"

A half-hour later Louie the Louse is sitting under a light bulb surrounded by the district attorney and his underlings.

"Louie, who were your accomplices in the Brinks robbery?"

Louie says, "I refuse to answer on the grounds that my answer would damage the newspaper's confidential right of my story."

The d.a. says, "You told Sgt. Brophy that there were four of you in on the Brinks job, including an inside man. Who was the inside man?"

"Wait," says Heartongue. "Newsweek has just offered us \$50,000 for the name of the inside man, providing it doesn't appear in The Washington Post first."

"Louie, we got all the evidence we need. We have pictures of you hijacking the Rolling Stones' airplane."

"Let's see those," Heartongue says. "You have no right to these photos. I sold them exclusively to New York Magazine."

"They're state's evidence," the district attorney says. "They're part of the public record we hope will be used to convict Louie the Louse."

"You mean to say that you would use photographs that were sold to a magazine on an exclusive basis just to prove a

criminal case against my client? Have you no legal ethics?"

"I'm not sure what you're driving at, Heartongue."

"The Constitution provides that every person accused of a crime is entitled to sell his story to a magazine, a newspaper, a hardcover book company and a paperback publisher. The value of his story is based on what he did not tell the grand jury or the FBI. If you reveal the facts, the TV bidding on Louie's book could be seriously damaged."

"Maybe so," the district attorney says. "But my only concern is justice. We have a guy who stole a Brinks truck, hijacked an airplane and forged a movie actor's name to a check. Now he has to be punished."

"He will be," Heartongue said. "But he wants to save it all for the book. Give us a break. A guy's got a right to make a buck on his own crime."

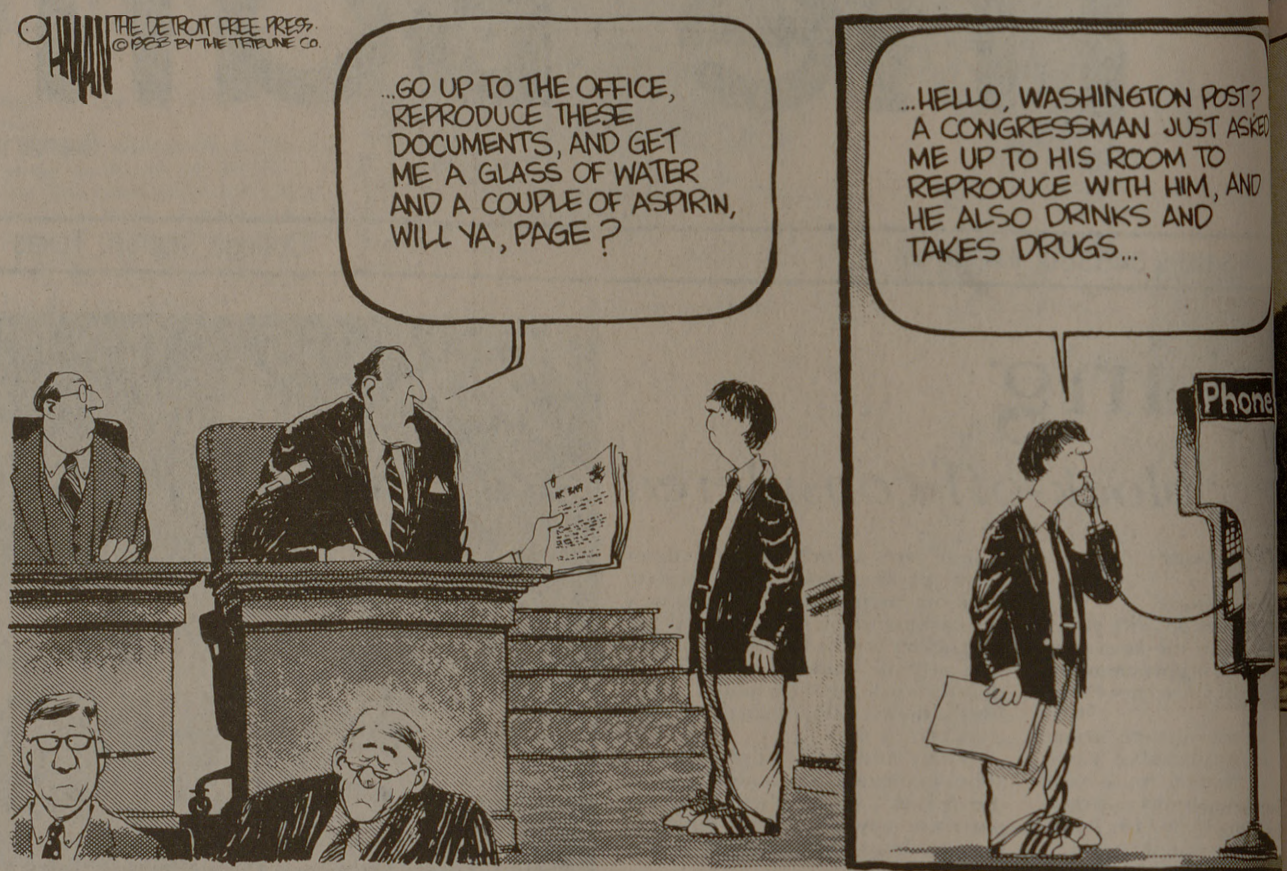
The district attorney says, "It's out of my hands. There are 100 reporters as well as photographers and TV cameras out there. How do I explain to them that Louie's story is copyrighted and they have no right to it?"

"That's your problem. My client has committed a perfectly valid crime which is worth anywhere up to seven figures. By making these crimes common knowledge you are depriving him of his literary and subsidiary rights under the Authors League and Dramatists Guild contracts."

The district attorney ignores him. "Okay, Louie, let's try once more. When did you forge Cliff Robertson's name on a check?"

Louie says, "I refuse to answer on the grounds that I may be getting a call from Mike Wallace at any moment."

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Establish trust at grassroots

Exiled activist speaks out

by Children's Express
United Press International

(Editor's Note: Children's Express, a privately funded news service, is real world journalism reported entirely by children 13 years of age or under whose tape-recorded interviews, discussions, reports and commentary are edited by teenagers and adults.)

NEW YORK — One of Mikhail Ostrovsky's ideas is to get children from America to go to Russia and for Russian kids to go to America — usually the ones who are politicians' children.

"That way," he says, "the military establishment wouldn't want to drop the bomb on the other side because the children would be there. We thought this would be a good way of establishing trust on both sides."

Ostrovsky is a member of an independent peace group in Russia called "The Group to Establish Trust Between the USSR and the USA."

"It was started on June 4, 1982 by 11 people in Moscow," he told us through a translator. "We were all friends and for several years we got together to discuss politics and the economic situation."

"Gradually we came to the conclusion that we should form a peace group to establish trust at a grassroots level between Soviets and Americans, and also to help stop the arms race and to prevent the threat of nuclear war."

In Russia there's an official peace movement. The feeling Children's Express reporters got from Mr. Ostrovsky is that it isn't people's wholehearted feeling to be with this movement.

"It's a paper organization," he said. "People pay dues and then they're called members of the Peace Squad or the Peace Committee. Any independent initiative is a threat to the totalitarian regime, and a peace initiative by an independent peace group or any independent public activity

"Our goal was not to set up contact between official organizations; but between ordinary people in the East and West."

is crushed."

This is why, he says, the Soviet government said to him, "Either you leave or we'll imprison you." Now he here in America, working in New York City as a dental technician.

"I left the Soviet Union about a month and a half after our group was founded," he said. "And during that short period the group was greatly harassed."

"It was almost like being in a detective

novel. There were spies, the phones were bugged, our apartments were blockaded, our cars were under house arrest, we couldn't go to the street when we tried to leave, there were times when we had to hide. There was also the imprisonment of some of our members.

"And this is all in spite of the fact that we consider ourselves loyal citizens. Our goal was not to set up contact with official organizations, but between ordinary people in the East and West."

People in the Soviet Union have no fault of their own, see a one-sided picture of peace and war, Ostrovsky said. "Soviet children are taught a bad thing and that the Soviet Union wants peace," he said. "In a sense, the propaganda says that only the Union has made peace initiatives that it's the other countries who

"The U.S. peace movement is non-aligned, independent, and many very individualistic approaches," Ostrovsky said.

He also noted that Americans sometimes all disagree with each other. "It's hard to understand."

"They're all fighting for peace, fighting against nuclear war, but they're so many different groups that they don't agree. I think they've been weakened by this kind of disagree-

Kissinger's staff under scrutiny

by Maxwell Glen
and Cody Shearer

WASHINGTON — Ronald Reagan's appointment of Henry Kissinger to head a bipartisan commission on Central America has raised eyebrows both here and abroad. But so should Kissinger's selection of Harry Shlaudeman as commission staff director.

While Kissinger's sometimes malevolent view toward Latin America has been well-documented — most recently by Seymour Hersh in "The Price of Power" — Shlaudeman's involvement in the region's affairs is less well-known.

But it hardly qualifies the 57-year-old diplomat to manage the studies of a supposedly open-minded panel on the region.

Shlaudeman has served every U.S. president since Eisenhower, holding posts at Foggy Bottom and overseas. At times, he's been U.S. ambassador to Venezuela, Peru and before Kissinger brought him home, Argentina. He regrets leaving Buenos Aires, he says, "especially at this moment when (Argentina) is returning to democracy."

Shlaudeman may have earned Kissinger's favor, however, during the four years (1969-1973) he spent as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Chile. During that period, Salvador Allende Gossens won the Chilean presidency democratically but lost it — as well as his life — at the hands of his generals.

Before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on June 12, 1974, Shlaudeman declared that "despite pressures to the contrary, the U.S. government adhered to a policy of nonintervention in Chile's internal affairs during the Allende period."

Two years later, however, a select Senate committee disclosed that Shlaudeman had misled Congress as to the United States' role in the overthrow of Allende in 1973.

"... in Santiago... Mr. Shlaudeman participated in the formulation of recommendations and the execution of instructions which resulted in the destruction of

Chilean democracy," recalled former representative Michael Harrington (D-Mass.), who was one of the Foreign Affairs Committee members who questioned the diplomat in 1974.

When confronted with the contradictions in his earlier testimony, Shlaudeman would only concede that the ULSL had helped to finance opposition parties.

The money, he insisted, was "aimed at preserving the opposition... (not) to overthrow Salvador Allende."

There are those, of course, who would say that Shlaudeman practiced obfuscation only in the line of duty. But lies of any color only compound a record already unsuited for finding paths to peace and justice in Central America.

There will be more auditors — approximately 400 more, in fact — examining Pentagon purchases next year if the House approves an increase already passed by the Senate.

Though Defense spending has jumped 180 percent since 1979, the number of Pentagon auditors has increased by only 3 percent, to 3,035. Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio), who authored the Senate amendment to increase Defense Contract Audit Agency personnel, says the government's audit effort is "constrained."

In a recent speech to his colleagues, Metzenbaum cited the purchase of 10 "Superman III" as an example of unchecked Pentagon spending.

Peter G. Peterson, who last week announced his resignation as chairman of Wall Street's Lehman Brothers, Kuhn and Loeb, Inc., plans soon to re-ignite the "Bi-Partisan Budget Appeal," first launched in the spring of 1982.

Peterson, along with hundreds of corporate moguls and academics, will be lobbying Washington to cut both social and defense expenditures and to raise taxes. Their goal is lower deficits in the latter years of the administration's five-year budget plan.

While the final House votes on Reps. Daniel Crane (R-Ill.) and Studds (D-Mass.) were nearly identical, congressional views on the two men's sex offenses were not.

A preliminary vote on a censure Crane, who admitted having sex with a female page, passed 288-147. For Studds, who confessed to having sex with a male page, the vote was 301-147.

Slouch
By Jim E...



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