

opinion

Hoopla about Jackson, pilot rescue ridiculous

Why do we always have to make a big political commotion over every move made by a presidential candidate? Granted, it makes for good reading in the paper and granted, that is what a lot of people want to hear about, but could we just once let something go at face value?

I'm talking about Jesse Jackson's mission to Syria to get Navy Lt. Robert Goodman Jr. released. Goodman's plane was shot down during an air strike Dec. 4 and he was taken prisoner by the Syrians. He was released — thanks to Jackson — a month later. So why don't Americans accept the fact that Goodman is home and not try to make a big political deal out of Jackson's trip?

Why couldn't we just be glad Goodman was home, safe after a very short captivity? Because the media had to analyze every move that the man made and tried to squeeze every drop of politics from Jackson's trip. Jackson was criticized at every turn. Even bringing Goodman home wasn't good enough because he did it for "political reasons."

Did Jackson use the situation to improve his standing in the crowded Democratic race? Since Jackson is running for office, it's hard to say that he didn't want

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to improve his popularity, but I don't believe that was his primary motive. He went to try to get Goodman released and because he was successful, he came out on top. But he easily could have failed.

Some politicians claim that Jackson wouldn't have gone to Syria if Goodman hadn't been black. Well, would any of the other candidates have gone if he had been white?

Others say the whole affair stinks. What smells so bad? Jackson made numerous calls to the White House to check

with President Reagan on many of the moves he made. He didn't blatantly come out and say "Hey, look what I did." The media took care of that.

And now that Goodman is home, he is being hounded by people wanting to know if he will campaign for Jackson. From that, however, Goodman is spared. Civil service laws prevent him from endorsing a candidate. He's lucky. If he did endorse Jackson, politicians and the media could say, "Aha, we were right. Jackson did go for political reasons." And if Goodman didn't endorse Jackson he would be labeled ungrateful.

Jackson put himself in a no-win situation. His actions — though successful — have been called purely political. Had he failed, Jackson would have been accused of botching any hope of getting Goodman released.

Losing either way is a situation no politician would want to get into, especially if he wants to win.

Columnist offers quotes you won't hear in 1984

by Art Buchwald

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Here are some of the things I doubt you'll hear said in 1984.

From John McEnroe: "Sir, my ball was out, and you called it in. Jimmy Connors deserves the point."

From Jesse Jackson: "I have no intention of making waves in the Democratic Party. The system as it now operates is fair to all the candidates."

President Ronald Reagan: "I received a touching letter from a little girl in Madison, Wisconsin, but I have no desire to read it to you."

Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger: "We overestimated our defense needs, and we're asking Congress to cut our budget in half."

An IRS agent (any IRS agent): "You're right and we're wrong."

Frank Sinatra: "Look at all the photographers. Let's go have our picture taken."

John DeLorean: "I believe we have the finest Drug Enforcement Agency in the world."

Yuri Andropov: "I think I'll jog around the Kremlin for a few hours."

Henry Kissinger: "I have no comment."

Nancy Reagan: "What's that little kid

doing in the White House?"

Secretary of State George Shultz: "See that the press gets a copy of everything we discussed here today."

Vice President George Bush: "I hope President Reagan isn't going to run, because I'd like to go for it myself."

Rev. Jerry Falwell: "If there is a God, and I'm not saying there is..."

Fritz Mondale: "If I am elected I will continue the policies and philosophy of President Jimmy Carter."

David Stockman: "Mr. President, I think there should be a little more fat in our social programs."

The editor of Pravda: "When we're wrong, we're wrong, and we should admit it. The Soviets overreacted when the United States placed Pershing 2 missiles in Europe. They're not the threat to the Warsaw Pact nations that we thought they would be, and we would like to return to Geneva as quickly as possible."

James Watt: "If I had it to do all over again, I would have kept my mouth shut and taken time to smell the flowers."

Anne Gorsuch Burford: "We all make mistakes, but the EPA was my department and I take full blame of the chaos."

Johnny Carson: "I believe a wife deserves every penny she can get when she feels she's been wronged."

A power company executive: "We have just discovered that our new nuclear plant was built with cheap materials and

shoddy labor. This is no fault of our customers and therefore we intend to pay for our mistakes without passing on any cost to the consumer."

The Japanese Minister of Commerce: "Japan can no longer export more than it imports without upsetting other nations' balance of trade. We are therefore lifting all restrictions on foreign goods, so other countries may compete fairly in the marketplace."

President Marcos: "It's time we had open elections supervised by an international commission selected by the United Nations."

Madame Marcos: "I couldn't agree with you more."

A Big Ten football coach: "I don't care if he's All-American material. If the kid can't keep his grades up I don't want him on my team."

Fidel Castro: "I've been shaving with this Remington electric for months. I liked it so much I bought the company."

Howard Cosell: "I'd rather not give my opinion on that because I don't know anything about it."

Prince Andrew: "I'm sorry, dear. I'm third in line for the throne, and it would not be right for me to get into a hot tub with you."

Ayatollah Khomeini: "In the name of Allah, and I'm not saying there is one..."

Will world leaders battle for Jackson's attention?

by Art Buchwald

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

"Hello, this is Jesse Jackson's campaign headquarters. No, the candidate is not here just now. He's in Moscow trying to persuade the Soviets to come back to the disarmament talks in Geneva. No, I'm sorry, Mr. Shultz, I don't know how to reach him ... I believe he has an appointment with Mr. Andropov this afternoon, and is dining with Mr. Gromyko tonight before taking off for Peking to discuss the China-Taiwan dispute with Deng Xiaoping. Yes, Mr. Secretary, he fully understands he's not speaking for the United States, but is only acting as a concerned citizen. I'll tell him that you called."

"Jesse Jackson's headquarters. The candidate is not here. Who is calling, please? Mrs. Thatcher ... Margaret Thatcher? It's so nice to talk to you. Unfortunately the candidate is out of the country. Can I be of help? Yes, he does plan to stop in Northern Ireland. I'm sorry you feel this is an internal matter for Her Majesty's Government. But Mr. Jackson believes you haven't given enough attention to the problem, and if he can get the British troops out we'll all be better for it, won't we? Please don't shout, Mrs. Thatcher. You should be happy that someone with Mr. Jackson's statesmanlike qualities is willing to get in-

involved. Yes, Ma'am, I'll tell him what you said, but I doubt if the candidate will cancel his trip.

"Jesse Jackson's campaign headquarters. I'm sorry, the candidate is still out of the country, Monsieur Mitterrand. Yes, I did see his press conference with the Corsican separatists. But Mr. Jackson was just speaking about the moral justification for a free Corsica, and did not go into the political issues. I regret you're upset, Mr. Mitterrand. No, I don't think you can talk to him now. He's flying to Cyprus to talk to Turkish and Greek officials about the partition of that island ... No, Mr. Jackson doesn't expect France to give up Corsica without being compensated for it. He made his position on Corsican liberation very clear to Barbara Walters on ABC. We'll send you a tape of it. Au revoir."

"Jesse Jackson's headquarters. Oh hello, John. Thanks for calling. Tell Jesse things are going really well. The candidate has been on the three major news shows every night for the past month. He got four minutes on his visit to El Salvador, three when he visited Kadafi, and five when he went to Brazil to renegotiate their loan with the United States. Ted Koppel has had him on "Nightline" all week explaining his plan to settle the Israeli-PLO problem, and Time magazine put him on the cover three weeks in a row. Where are you now? You're at the Vatican talking to the Pope about Poland? Did they let in the camera crew?"

Great. The Mondale and Glenn people are going crazy. And the White House is fuming. The president called a news conference the other night on foreign affairs and nobody came.

"Where are you going from Rome? ... You don't know? Jerry thinks you ought to hop over to Iraq and then stop off in Tehran and see if you can bring about a cease-fire between these two countries. But don't go unless you have assurances you'll meet with Khomeini. Tell the candidate we're holding down the fort here."

"Jesse Jackson's headquarters. The candidate is not here. Who's calling? Oh hello, Mr. President. Yes sir, I did give him your message that you wanted him to call you, but he's been terribly busy. Yes sir, I did tell him what you said — that the American president, according to the Constitution, is in charge of foreign policy, and that Mr. Jackson is making your job much more difficult by negotiating with all the world's leaders. But he wanted me to assure you that he is not making any promises to them which will be impossible for you to keep. Oh, there was one other thing he told me to ask you if you called. Is it possible for him to use Air Force One while he's traveling abroad? Some of the Third World countries are very difficult to get to by commercial plane."

While you were away ...

Incredible cold strikes



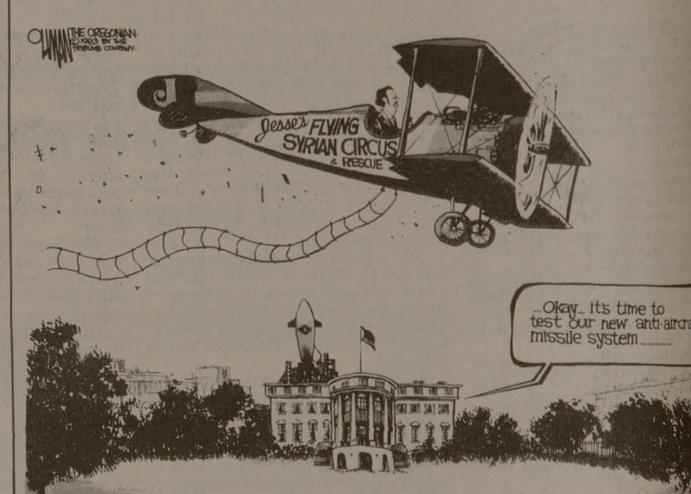
STRANGE... THAT DOG HASN'T MOVED IN TWO DAYS...

Is the Soviet leader alive?



I STILL THINK HAVING ANDROPOV HERE AT THE PARADE IS GOOD FOR MORALE...

Presidential hopeful rescues pilot



The Battalion

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