

editorial

Breaking silence

While seeing the Great Wall of China, President Nixon echoed his hopes for a world that contains no "walls of any kind between peoples."

Nixon's more than 25 hours in conference with Chinese Premier Chou En-lai to date have had cordial connotations and appear to be the most dynamic attribute of a foreign visit by an American president. It has lasted longer than any other U.S. chief executive's visit to another country.

In the recent past, the global environment appeared to be topped by a United States and Soviet Union semi-coalition versus the Red Chinese nation. The almost cruel silence mainland China has maintained with both Russia and the Western world has all but come to a close. One hitch remains in the saddle of foreign negotiations, namely the still assumed silence between Russia and Red China.

The United States could wind up the winner in the long run by being the only world power in a position to communicate with the other two global leaders. China has not in the past opened any doors to the Soviet

Union. The future also looks bleak. Ping pong diplomacy scored for the United States. One can only wonder if the Russians have a ping pong team also.

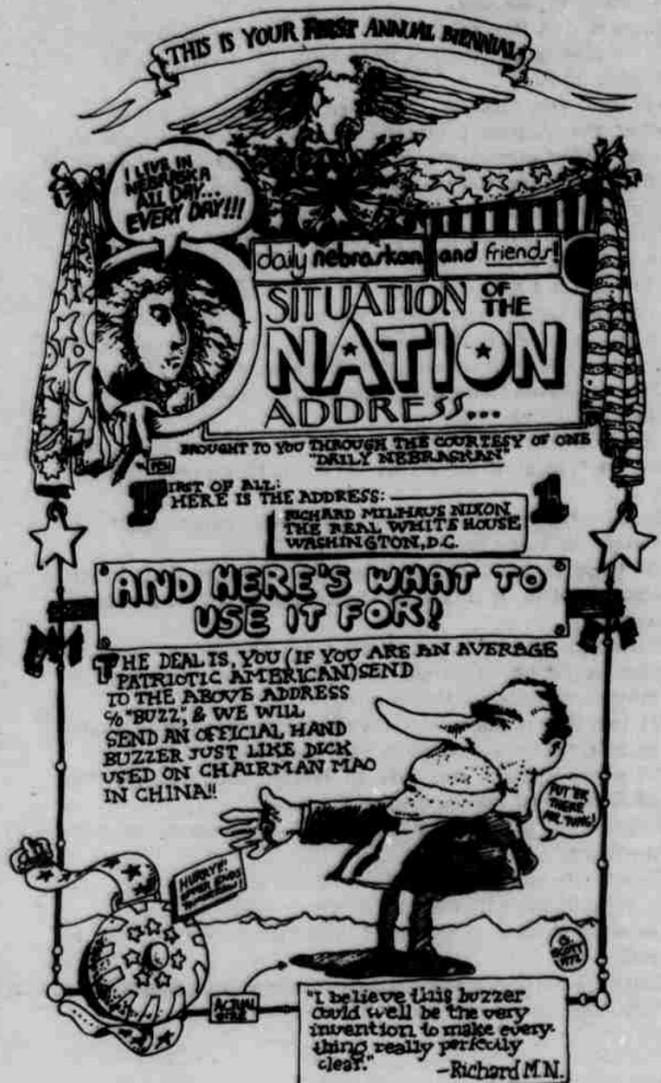
If communication is the key to understanding, as is so often stated, and understanding will lead this nation to a peaceful world, then it appears Americans just may be on a winning team, so to speak.

The global power triumverate can progress towards peace and prosperity if three way communication develops. Should the Russians and Chinese choose not to connect a phone between Peking and Moscow, or set up a proverbial ping pong table on their border it will not be the fault of Americans.

Nixon's Peking trip has opened a new era for two nations. It is only desirable that Peking and Moscow attempt to bring new eras of understanding between their nations.

While this is being done, maybe President Nixon will have a chance to clean up the American domestic scene and parts of Southeast Asia he has temporarily forgotten.

Barry Pilger



"... I'm Richard Nixon... I'm running for re-election... I'm Richard Nixon..."

arthur hoppe innocent bystander

Now that Nixon has taken away their other issues, the Democrats are talking about licking him on the economy. "With any luck at all," say the Democrats, rubbing their hands, "1972 is going to be a terrible year."

But what the Democrats have forgotten - and what Nixon is obviously counting on - is that 1972 is a presidential election year. This factor alone will have a major effect on the outcome.

Take the well-known fact that incumbent presidents are usually re-elected. The basic reason for this is they run, generally speaking, in presidential election years.

And there is nothing to create a vigorous economic boom like a presidential election.

Look at New Hampshire. By the time the primary rolls around on March 7, the flock of candidates up there will have poured a good \$1 million into the local economy. Along with tourist speed traps and fining fish and game violators, presidential primaries rank as one of New Hampshire's leading industries.

First, let's take a look at where all that money goes. It goes to the deserving, hard-working little fellows - the sign painters, poll takers, hall renters, caterers, waiters and chicken farmers. (Heaven only knows what would happen to this nation's great chicken industry if it weren't for presidential fund-raising banquets every four years.)

Moreover, most of this is supplemental income. For example, the reason the New Hampshire primary is held the first week in March is that it's still too early for spring plowing.

Thus the taciturn, craggy-faced farmers and their taciturn, apple-checked wives are free to man their little roadside stands all through January and February, selling interviews, cross-sections and polls

to eager out-of-state political observers.

And, of course, New Hampshire is only the first of two dozen primaries which bring instant prosperity to depressed areas from coast to coast. Then comes the orgy of spending at the huge conventions where balloon fillers alone make enough to live on for months. And these are followed by the incredibly expensive campaigns between the two or three major candidates. It's a wonder they didn't save the railroads.

So the money goes to the poor, deserving American workers. Now, let us ask ourselves, where does it come from? It comes from the rich. Not only do the rich give and give generously to this worthy cause, but they're happy to do so.

Take any typical tycoon. Take Aloysius (Fat) Katz. Katz employs a score of accountants and tax lawyers to make sure he never gives a nickel to the government. But let a presidential candidate knock on his door and Katz is overjoyed to press a couple of thousand on him - no receipt necessary.

So while the rich understandably depise giving to the government, they're delighted to give to the man who may run it.

Thus, in presidential campaigning, we have discovered an ideal way to create prosperity while taking from the rich and giving to the poor - and making everybody happy in the bargain. No more perfect method of redistributing the wealth could be imagined.

The only problem is that under our present system it occurs only once every four years. Annual presidential campaigns are a must.

For the way it is now, after we spend a year redistributing the wealth from rich to poor, the man who wins usually spends the next three redistributing it back again.

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Co. 1972.