

Peace politics

Whoopie.
All indications are that the war may be over. Presidential adviser Henry Kissinger said Thursday that "peace is at hand" in Vietnam. Hanoi claims that the United States has agreed to several peace terms and only a few minor points have yet to be worked out.

The only problem is that it's about four years too late.

Four years ago, when Nixon took office, the war in Vietnam was admittedly in full swing already. But it became worse.

In Nixon's term of office the war expanded to a full-scale Indochina War, involving millions more victims in a skirmish in which they had no interest or stake.

Surprisingly, the peace terms summarized by the North Vietnamese seem to be fair to both sides. And amazingly much like what the North Viets have been asking all along.

The terms outlined by Hanoi include provisions for a cease fire, U. S. withdrawal from Southeast Asia, eventual re-unification of North and South, immediate release of POWs, an international committee for military control and supervision and, most importantly, a coalition government with both the Thieu government and Viet Cong leaders retaining some former powers.

The last provision could be precisely the key to the recent breakthroughs in negotiations. The government-by-coalition, supervising free elections within the country would seem to be the best way to avoid governmental takeover by either the Communists or Thieu's fascist strongmen.

What exactly caused delay in negotiations for the past few years is uncertain. However, one can be sure, that American stubbornness and lack of foresight had a lot to do with it. And, no doubt, a hefty hunk of good ole American pride. Which doesn't say much for the current administration's priorities.

Even now, it is not known how soon the war machine actually will grid to a halt. The North now claims that the U. S. government is stalling on minor points, which sounds like a true story.

There can be no doubt that the new peace rumor was strategically timed to coincide with pre-election activities. With balloting less than two weeks away, the administration certainly will try to milk any chance of a settlement for all it's worth.

There is a chance, however, that this electioneering could backfire. Recently, political scientists have speculated that talk of a truce may actually help Sen. McGovern more than Nixon. Brought into play here is another issue—the economy.

According to opinion experts, the public is beginning to worry, at the hint of peace, about where the economy will go after the truce. And that could injure Nixon.

With America's currently-depressed economy and Nixon's shoddy economic record, any voter with even a shred of intelligence would have to at least consider what even more unemployed military and military support personnel would do to the already-imbalanced Nixon Clockwork Economy.

Right now, it appears the only way Nixon could lose the election would be to cut his

own throat. That may be exactly what he's doing by dragging out peace negotiations.

You might call that overkill—in more ways than one.

No. 1 zero

Of all the proposed Nebraska Constitutional Amendments which will appear on the ballot Nov. 7, Amendment No. 1 is clearly No. 1 in absurdity as well.

The amendment would prohibit those between the ages of 18 and 21 from serving in the Legislature.

Proponents of the measure claim those under 21 are not mature enough, have no responsibilities and own few properties, all of which, they say, make the youngsters unfit to serve.

Pshaw.

It is hard to believe that anyone with anything bigger than a chip on his shoulders could actually believe that legislative ability matures appreciably between his 18th and 21st birthdays. It is also difficult to believe that anyone could claim young adults, who often have the greatest buying power, could be considered fiscally unsound.

Most absurd of all, however, is the thought that while a person is qualified to vote at 18, he is not experienced enough to hold office. The basis of the American system is that all people are parties to the decisions of the government. Voters have just as much responsibility as office holders.

Some amendments are shallow, but this is ridiculous. No. 1 is a big zero in any book.

Jim Gray

Martians plot takeover of American television

Monday—A Martian space ship landed 24 hours ago on Route 182 in suburban Pocatello, Pa., and disgorged 72 six-armed monsters with cerise heads, it was learned today.

The interplanetary craft blocked the road, forcing motorist Emery J. Bord to slam on his brakes. Bord said later one of the Martians demanded: "Take me to your leader." Bord directed him to the nearest phone booth before speeding on his way.

Asked why he hadn't reported the invasion from outer space at the time, Bord shrugged. "I didn't want to get involved," he said.

Tuesday—White House Press Secretary Ronald Zeigler announced today that Henry Kissinger had cancelled a date with Jill St. John to fly to Pocatello.

Zeigler said he didn't know what Kissinger would do in Pocatello or whether he would negotiate with the Martians or what about or anything else new. The stock market immediately jumped seven points.

Meanwhile, Sergeant Shriver charged that a high interior department official had sold the Washington Monument to the invaders for three million gloks, the Martian monetary unit. He demanded that "the public be heard on this corrupt scandal."

The public was heard when a lady in Duluth told a sidewalk interviewer, "What else do you expect from politicians?"

Wednesday—President Nixon delivered an

arthur
hoppe
**innocent
bystander**

emergency telecast to the nation tonight from the White House, now ringed by Martian space ships.

"My fellow Americans," he said, "there is no cause for alarm. For while the number of Martian invaders continues to increase, the rate of increase has dropped sharply, thanks to the vigorous, middle-of-the-road policies of this administration. Therefore, I can say to you truthfully tonight that we are winding down the invasion."

Unfortunately, the President appeared in a time slot opposite "The Galloping Slurs"—a rollicking family comedy about a right-wing Jewish Elk who fights with his Samoan-Italian Communist wife. Thus the President received a Nielsen rating of only 74—not counting an elderly Scarsdale couple who, if they hadn't fallen asleep in front of their set, would have brought the number to 76.

Thursday—At a monster rally in Manhattan, Senator McGovern pledged tonight that he would force the unilateral withdrawal of all monsters within 90 days.

This, he said, would save \$10.6 billion, which, coupled with his proposed double inheritance tax on twin-screw yachts, would finance his \$142.6 billion anti-everything-bad legislative program.

The throng of 42 leaped to their feet—27 cheering, 8 shouting, "Four more years!" and 7 asking each other, "Is he going to talk all night?"

Friday—The latest Trotter Poll showed 32 per cent approved Nixon's handling of the monster situation; 16 per cent favored Senator McGovern; 7 per cent were for the monsters; and 45 per cent felt everyone should mind their own business.

Saturday—The invaders at last revealed their purpose. Pre-empting the networks, a Martian spokesman said today they had come "only in peace and to help their Earthing brothers."

As a first step, he said, television would henceforth carry nothing but educational programs designed solely "to inform the public and stimulate interest in the grave issues of the day."

At this, Americans unanimously rose up in righteous wrath, drove the invaders back into their space ships and kicked them off the planet.

By nightfall, everything had returned to normal.

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