

d.n. soapbox

ralph by ron wheeler



innocent bystander | Switch your foreign policy, Henry, not anti-perspirants

By Arthur Hoppe

"Well, it certainly is nice for the two of us to have dinner alone at home, Henry, for the 23rd night in a row."

"Yes, Nancy, it is odd that no one invites us out any more. Do you think my anti-perspirant is letting me down in the clinches?"

"Frankly, dear, I think it's your foreign policy."

"Detente? What's wrong with detente?"

"I hate to tell you this, dear, but everybody these days finds detente extremely offensive. Even the President has sworn in public that he will never use detente again. He says he's switching permanently to 'peace through strength' instead."

"That's easy for him to say. It isn't his detente. It's my detente. I was using it for years before he came around. And everyone loved me for it. You could ask anybody, 'Are you for detente?' And they'd say, 'Sure, why not?'"

"I know, dear. But all the candidates, led by Ronald Reagan and Scoop Jackson, have attacked it as a 'one-way street.' You know how annoyed people get with one-way streets."

"But Nancy, detente can't be a one-way street. It's more like a freeway interchange. All it means is a relaxation of tensions. Who's against that?"

"Oh, no one's against a relaxation of tensions, dear. It's detente they can't abide. They say things like 'Look at what happened in Helsinki!'"

"Look at what that happened in Helsinki?"

"Who knows? Then they say, 'Look at how the Russians took advantage of our glorious free enterprise system by offering our grain brokers the highest price for our wheat.'"

"What's that got to do with detente?"

"Who knows? Then they say, 'Look at the way the Communists are going to outfox us at the SALT talks.'"

"Yes, I've noticed, Nancy, that the more patriotic Americans are, the more convinced they become that the Russians are smarter than we. Do they think this is due to detente?"

"Who knows? Then, as a clincher, they say, 'Look what happened in Angola!'"

"You mean they think detente proves their Cubans can lick our Angolans?"

"Who knows? The point is, dear, that you'll have to start using an entirely new foreign policy if you want to avoid giving offense."

"You're absolutely right, Nancy. I'll start increasing tensions instead. Phooey on you, you crumby Commies. Put up your mitts!"

"But, dear, as a diplomat, people want you to reduce tensions, not increase them."

"Yes, that's so. Wait, I've got it, Nancy! An all-new foreign policy which we'll call, 'Die Entspannung.'"

"Henry, dear, you're a genius. We'll be deluged with invitations. It has such a nice ring to it."

"Even though it's German for 'reducing tensions?'"

"Who cares?"

(Copyright Chronicle Publishing Co. 1976)

Karl Hess

Author of 'Dear America'

Thurs. April 1, 7:30 p.m.
Union Ballroom



A part of the Symposium on the Wisdom of the West

Miller & Paine

Nebraska's QUALITY Department Stores

The Uncompromising One

Hewlett-Packard
HP-25

Scientific
Programmable
Calculator

\$195



A scientific calculator that gives you uncompromising design and quality... and takes it easy on a budget. The HP-25 Scientific Programmable has 72 built-in functions and operations. It performs all log and trig functions, and also all basic data manipulations. All in one compact calculator. See all our selection of calculators in the Stationery Department, all stores. Use your Nebraskacard, Master Charge, or BankAmericard.

AMERICAN CLOTHING SPEAKS WITH A EUROPEAN ACCENT.

Europe comes to Nebraska and it's that slick-looking rope-shouldered "European" look that's linking the continents. Style is the rule with the emphasis on clean tapered fitting. The European fit is here for spring, but it's not for the unsophisticate. ... Look who's WEARING it...

NOW at Jason's the biggest introductory offer ever. A 25% Reduction on ALL New Spring Suits! A Blend of

JASON'S

DOWNTOWN
1346 P St.
432-7070

GATEWAY
GALLERY MALL
484-7095

