

Oh I'm a Yankee Doodle A-bomb

The Administration's worldwide get-tough policy is no doubt striking fear into the hearts of our enemies. But it's hard on us dedicated patriots.

I remember when we we could go along for years hating the treacherous Nips and the fiendish Huns while admiring the gallant Russians and the brave Chinese — or vice versa. But now, if we want to know our enemy, we have to hustle out each morning and grab the paper before the dog gets to it.

arthur hoppe

In particularly dire straits is Tin Pan Alley, which is responsible for maintaining the nation's morale. It seems like only yesterday that the noted tunesmith Twinkle Fingers La Roche burst into my office, assembled his portable piano and began banging out what he touted as his latest hit:

"There's nothing more pleasant/Than to bag a Commie peasant/For the Junta and the Red, White and Blue."

In fact, it was yesterday. "That's not only bad taste, Twinkle," I said, "but you're way behind the times when it comes to El Salvador."

"Maybe so," he said, marking the sheet music "Hold for Release." "But think how far ahead I am when it comes to Honduras and Guatemala."

"What have you got that's current?" I asked.

He played a few bars of "From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli," segued into "Libya, oh, Libya, we'll kick you in the tibia" and then finished off with

"Oh, what a laugh he/Is that Kaddafi./Ka-dilly, ka-dilly, da-daffy./That silly, hill-billy Kadaffi./Wow, will he whistle/When our heat-seeking missile . . ."

"Never mind," I said. "Hate Libya Week was last month."

A hint of desperation came into Twinkle's eyes. "Okay," he said. "Listen to this: Goodbye, gang, / I'm off to Pyongyang / To make the skies safe for our SR-71."

"SR-71?" I said. "That's not too catchy. But go on."

"That's all I've had time to write," he confessed abjectly. "To tell the truth, I haven't finished a tune in six months. Every time I get to the second verse, a new crisis pops up. I'd starve to death if it weren't for my old standards."

"Like what?"

"Oh, you know: 'You're Nothin' But an Afghan Hound Dog,' 'Praise the Lord and Pass the Neutron Bomb,' 'Poles of My Heart (Keep those Poles apart),' and 'Knick, Knack, Sell AWAC (Give Tel Aviv a bone . . .)'"

"Those aren't good enough, Twinkle," I said. "We need a song that will pull America together."

"I'm working on it," he said defensively. "How's this? There'll be MXs over / The white cliffs of . . . of . . ." Suddenly, he broke down, sobbing.

"Pull yourself together, Twinkle," I said sternly. "The country is counting on you. Over where?"

He leapt to his feet and embraced me. "That's it!" he cried. "A new national patriotic hymn!" He turned to the piano, pounded on it triumphantly and sang in a strident voice:

"Over where? / Over where? Oh, the yanks are coming, / Over where?"

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Day-care . . .

Continued from Page 4

But it could become a featured item, even a star attraction, in the new flexible packages. These packages, called "cafeteria plans," are only in operation in a dozen major corporations, but they are being considered by many others.

Under a cafeteria plan, a worker can fill a tray of benefits to fit his or her own needs from a line of options, including everything from vacation time to legal insurance to dental care.

A working parent with children, for example, might be able to pick child-care reimbursement rather than, say, vacation days, when the kids are small.

The problem with this transfer program is that the carrot may not feed the same families who are being affected by the stick. The Title 20 programs have been geared to the poor.

There will be, at best, a time lag before the effects of the changed tax law are felt. In the short run, there will be a net loss in day-care facilities.

But the new law has a potentially wide and beneficial effect. In the long run, it encourages a diverse system under which parents can create and choose the sort of day care they prefer — at home, family day care, day-care centers. It encourages industry to consider that other half of workers' lives: home and family.

At best, if this works, it may even protect day care, always fragile in any war for funding, from the ritual beatings of the budget stick.

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Letters to the editor

Traffic eased by radial

The Northeast Radial should not be considered a dead issue. Some form of it should be implemented to ease congestion on 16th and 17th streets. To ensure the safety of pedestrians, traffic should be moved away from the city campus.

With traffic reduced on 16th and 17th, the campus will become more attractive to students and citizens alike. And wouldn't it be nice to make those streets into beautiful malls the way other streets on campus were made?

With a growing enrollment, the university will need to expand. It can't go west because of the 9th and 10th street viaducts; downtown restricts expansion to the south; and the railroad tracks are in the way to the north.

East is the logical direction for the campus to grow. The city council members who voted not to remove the Northeast Radial from the city's Comprehensive Plan should be commended for not proceeding until a viable alternative to move traffic northeast out of downtown is brought forward.

Dan Vestecka
Sophomore
Accounting

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