

In our opinion

Aid to Tito strategic

Yugoslavia represents a stage of independence from Moscow that other European countries which fell under Communist control after World War II have never been able to achieve. The support Marshal Tito received from the West after his break with Stalin in 1948 helped establish Yugoslavia as a "non-aligned" country outside the Soviet orbit.

As Tito advances in years — he is now 84 — it is becoming apparent that Yugoslavia may again be relying on its ties with the West to keep that degree of independence. The departure of Tito as a unifying figure in that Balkan country will provide the Russians the opportunity they have been waiting for to remove the embarrassment of "Titoism" from the Communist world.

This explains what is emerging as a significant shift in U.S. policy toward Yugoslavia. The State Department's Security Assistance Program for the coming year calls for \$1.5 million in arms sales to Tito's government — the largest amount since the 1960s. That sum is small in the context of our entire military aid program, but this bid from Belgrade for American arms is highly significant nonetheless.

The Yugoslavs want to buy American TOW antitank missiles, and it is obvious they are not worried about tanks invading from Western Europe but about the possibility of Soviet tanks enforcing the "Brezhnev doctrine"

as they have in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Tito has been strengthening both the political and military defenses of his government against the danger that disunity after his death would invite such a Soviet thrust.

U.S. policy toward Eastern Europe has been getting new attention since release of a speech given last December by State Department counselor Helmut Sonnenfeldt which suggested our government would be pleased to see more, not less, Soviet hegemony over its European satellites. President Ford has set the record straight on that score, and reaffirmed that the United States does not accept Soviet domination as the permanent fate of East Europeans. While the opportunities to exercise that policy are limited where the Warsaw Pact countries are concerned, that is not the case with Yugoslavia, where it is a question of helping a country preserve what measure of independence it now enjoys.

There is much speculation currently over the future of Europe on both sides of the Iron Curtain as new political trends threaten to disturb relationships that have prevailed for a generation. This is an ideal time to signal Moscow — and the rest of Europe — that the independence of Yugoslavia remains of primary concern to the United States. The modest but timely resumption of arms sales to the Yugoslavs is one way to get that message across.

A look see

Should judges be appointed?

By GEORGE METCALF
One of the pleasures an legislator is to run across persons he once served with. An unexpected meeting with Frank D. O'Connor the other evening in Albany was one such.

Frank and I were members of the State Senate in the early '50s before he withdrew to become the District Attorney of Queens. Then, as now, he was a forceful personality, deeply interested in public service.

For some time after that, our paths didn't cross. Then, as the incidence of narcotics addiction skyrocketed in New York City, we were drawn together by a mutual desire to fight the epidemic, he taking the legal approach, I the medical route.

When the basic law was finally enacted in 1962, it bore the stamp of his efforts. Far by then, he was as knowledgeable on the subject of addiction as any public official in the state.

In the view of this record, it was mind boggling in 1966 to see Nelson Rockefeller accuse him during the gubernatorial

campaign, when O'Connor was the Democratic candidate, of showing unconcern for the problem.

Yet Rockefeller carried it off and outside the fact Franklin Roosevelt Jr. split the Democratic Party by campaigning for governor on the liberal ticket, the chief reason O'Connor lost the election was that the public actually believed Rockefeller's accusation.

A decade has now passed, and I was glad to discover that despite the setback, he is once more involved in public controversy, this time over the subject of judicial selection. Should the courts be filled by appointment or election? It's not a new question, he admits, but a timely one.

"In the early history of the State for many, many years," O'Connor told the Legislature's Select Task Force on court reorganization earlier this year, "all judges were appointed by the governor and when in 1846 the Legislature set up the direct popular election of the judiciary, it was held throughout the country as a great democratic reform, as indeed it was."

Oddly enough, however, given enough

time, reform comes full circle and yesterday's liberalism becomes today's conservatism and vice versa. It is simply the ebb and flow of history, as predictable as the sound of the metronome. Thus, O'Connor, a conservative, is naturally drawn to the concept of electing judges, and I to appointing them, but wait...

The issue originally flamed up over the alleged corruption of certain elected members of the judiciary. Were they more susceptible to corruption than appointed ones? Possibly, dissimilarities in geography, demography and political organizations made the difference.

In any event, today's reformers are calling for a "non-partisan merit selection system" to pick judges mainly because of the surreptitious manner in which judicial plums are handed out — or allegedly handed out — by the big city political machines, especially New York.

The charge is made that no judicial candidate is endorsed, nominated and elected without a substantial contribution to the party leadership.

While this, if true, is lamentable, it does

not necessarily follow that the successful seeker lacks judgment or that he is incapable of controlling his court. What it does mean is that the process has created a poor image and parenthetically that the judge may be more susceptible to graft and pressure than if appointed upon the recommendation of a group of legal peers.

What O'Connor finds wrong with the appointive route is the rejection of the democratic system. "To place the power to pick judges in the hands of any special group, whether of the bar, the business or professional community is utterly folly," he maintains. "To seriously suggest that in a democracy the people's judges should be hand-picked for them by the select few of a select group is appalling. Is this not indeed elitism run rampant?"

To demonstrate the point, the former Queens DA relates how leaders of the bar in the past have discriminated against minorities because they were black or Jewish. For instance, when Woodrow Wilson nominated Louis Brandeis to the Supreme Court, six former presidents of the American Bar Association, at Elihu Root's instigation, branded him "not a fit person to sit on the court."

The challenge that this happened more than a half century ago, O'Connor views as specious. What it proves is that small coteries can manufacture their own rules of excellence that can run counter to the public's best interests.

O'Connor admits that many of those most qualified to be judges are lost to the bench because they will not become involved in partisan politics, but this loss on balance is not as serious as the loss to the people in taking from them the power to elect their own choices.

Besides, if public officials are to be elected, it doesn't really matter whether they are judges or legislators in the eyes of the public. Studies show that no more than eight per cent of the New York City voters know the names of their elected officials, including their Congressmen, their State Legislators or their Councilmen.

This, no doubt, is a telling argument. In fact, if the system of electing judges appears not to work, the trouble is not in the system but in the lack of it in O'Connor's words, quoting the words of a person "much wiser than he," who said, "The cure for the abuse of democracy is more, not less democracy."



Charles Bartlett

Church swallows his metaphor

WASHINGTON—The rogue elephant turns out to be a harness horse under slack reins in the final chapter of Sen. Frank Church's epic investigation of the CIA.

To Church's credit, he swallowed his metaphor, elephant and all, to erase the picture he drew last year of a wild agency on the loose. The CIA is "not out of control," he concludes. It is a tractable agency that has been loosely supervised by a

series of Presidents and Congresses as it carried out a difficult mandate under a loosely-worded charter.

After spending \$3 million and 185 man-years, the Church committee has made no substantial addition to the abuses cited 10 months ago by the Rockefeller Commission. Since President Ford has already imposed strenuous precautions against

repetition of those abuses, the report will merely serve to stir more dust unless it persuades the Senate to organize its surveillance of intelligence under a single oversight committee. This does not seem likely to happen.

By sober handling of a mass of sensitive material and by negotiating responsibly with the executive branch at every turn, the Church committee has demonstrated that a permanent committee would be valuable in bridging the secrecy required by intelligence operations and the Congress's need to know.

The committee went off the track only once, in bloodhounding the leads of its chief counsel, Frederick Schwarz, on the assassination issue. This diversion protracted the inquiry by six months, introduced partisan concerns, and fed the impression that Church was bent on drawing attention to his presidential bid. To force the nation to examine its conscience on using assassination as a tool of foreign policy, the committee paid the price of feeding the Soviets some rich propaganda.

A new dust storm will arise from the report's disclosure that the CIA deals with several hundred "academics" from over 100 colleges in its pursuit of intelligence. It disturbs the committee that professors who take sabbaticals to interesting places are invited to share their observations with the government. Sometimes they are paid, often they are not. They do not perform as agents, merely as patriotic citizens who have been trained as specialists.

To most people, this will appear a very normal, harmless kind of cooperation. But to the Church committee, it is a transgression of the moral purity which the nation must reflect. The Senators want the country to be a model of virtue and self-restraint, not a scarred back-alley scrapper. As Church says, "The United States must acquire a longer view of history."

Happily, the committee checked the impulse to translate this sentiment into a ban on all the dirty covert actions. The Senators reacted to a toughening of the national mood and to indignation over the CIA circus in the House by pulling back from their inclination to proscribe all the activities which may muddy the national reputation. But this is really the crux of the post-Vietnam divergence on foreign policy and it deserves to be debated until a consensus develops.

This is the kind of issue with which the committee and Congress should concern themselves instead of focusing on the details of intelligence management. With Congress so badly organized and unable even to arrange for efficient supervision of intelligence activities, the committee will not be taken seriously when it attempts to shift around the CIA's organizational chart.

The committee has tried to behave responsibly; however, and time alone will tell whether its disclosures helped more than they hurt. But a swift test of the Senate's reaction to all it has learned will come on the May 6 vote to create a single oversight committee.

Lest we forget

Perhaps the most ignored national problem in the current discussion of issues by the political candidates is the continuing energy shortage which the country faces.

While we are assured that it will continue to grow worse, the sense of immediate urgency which prevailed during the Arab oil embargo has vanished since gasoline and other petroleum products are temporarily not in short supply.

The only sign of our continuing energy shortage is the continuing escalation in utility bills, which are a periodic reminder that utility companies are paying much more for fuel for electric generation than they were a few years ago.

A non-candidate, Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, recently warned of the nation's vulnerability to foreign blackmail, boycott and other interruptions of America's oil imports, which are now greater than domestic production for the first time in our history.

Rockefeller predicted that our present \$30 billion annual outlay for imported petroleum could grow to \$60 billion in the immediate future and thus give us our worst trade balance deficit in years.

The Energy Research and Development Administration has announced that a program of conservation has its highest priority, thus acknowledging that Project Independence, which was going to make the United States free of foreign energy imports by 1980 is about as dead as WIN. (Whip Inflation Now.)

While our utility bills may remind us that energy prices are up, reflecting high

petroleum costs, the Congress has held down the price of gasoline and other products, such as heating oil, by refusing to deregulate oil and gas prices to seek a true economic level.

This has resulted in a diminished incentive to the oil companies for continued exploration.

At the same time they are faced with a Department of Justice suit designed to break the giants down into many smaller companies on the theory that this should encourage competition. There are those who believe that it could cripple and demoralize the industry.

Environmentalists continue to press for caution in future development of fossil fuel and atomic energy.

Offshore oil drilling is anathema to them. They consider atomic plants too dangerous, despite the safety record up to now. In California there is an initiative on the June ballot which, if passed, will put a hedge of safeguards and regulations on atomic development as to effectively block any new construction in the foreseeable future.

Abandonment of Utah's Kaiparowits Plateau plan for new coal-generated electricity by major California utilities has been a victory for the environmentalists.

Every once in a while we all ought to give a little thought to the millions of gasoline ration coupons which were printed during the Arab embargo. They are still in storage somewhere, to be brought out, if we do not take positive steps to reduce our continuing energy shortage.

A bureau blinks

For a government agency to suggest a reduction in its functions and powers is akin to a dog biting a man, news by definition.

So it was news recently when the Civil Aeronautics Board told Congress it recommends its authority to control airline services and prices be sharply reduced.

The board's proposal doesn't go as far as President Ford advocates in deregulating the airlines but it is remarkable that it goes at all in that direction. The airline industry and its

labor unions object strenuously to any easing of the terms of their economic captivity. They will fight like flying tigers in Congress to retain the protection of government price controls.

But the CAB action should strengthen the band of those congressmen who put the interests of the air traveler first. The public will benefit from price competition and so will the industry, in the long run.

In the long run, the discipline of the free market is better for business than the protection of the government.

In your opinion

Get involved or perish

Communists boast all the borders of their countries are now sealed. All glory to God, no power is able to seal the uplook to God Almighty nor to the down pouring of His blessing upon His children. It is our sacred duty to be awake and working to keep America from Satan's determination to seal America for himself.

Always remember Jesus said, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." God has given us such a beautiful country everywhere, that we have slept and enjoyed it while Satan took over. Have you any life left in you? Will you use it as God leads you?

He has so much work to do and practically no one to do it. Have you no faith? Are you afraid to be unpopular? Do you not

know God? Will you go and let God? When God calls you He gives the power and ability to fulfill His purpose. You don't believe? Prove it for yourself. God is waiting for you. He needs you.

On the radio I noticed our leaders are determined to take away all handgins. That finishes us when they do. It's the plan of our leaders to open the prison gates and turn loose on us the murderers and guerrillas. How then can men defend their own?

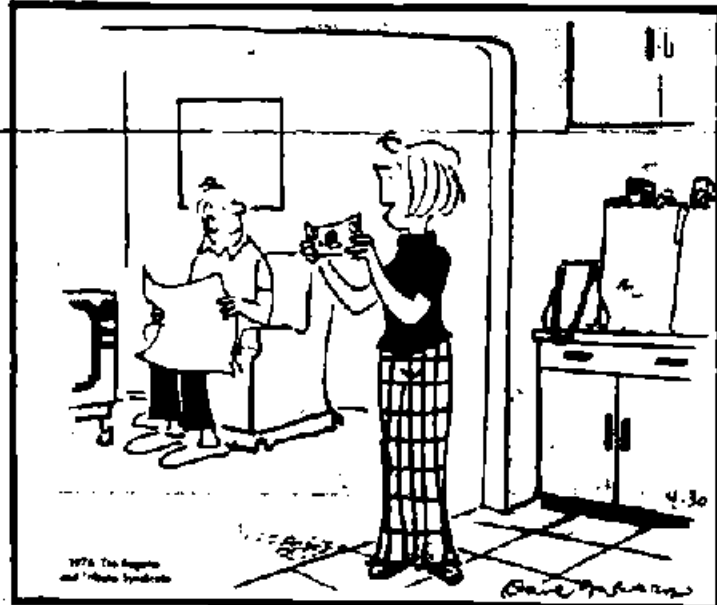
This is the proceeding that resulted in the sealed Communist borders. You must have your guns!

Wake up, wake up, get involved or perish.

RUTH H. HURLBUT

CITIZEN SMITH

By Dave Gerard



"I suppose we'll use these \$2 bills till things go higher. Then they'll print a \$3 bill!"

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That's a good question

This column is a reader service which will attempt to find answers and solve problems after reader's efforts have failed. Send problems and copies of supporting documents to "That's a good question" The Citizen, 25 Dill St., Auburn, N.Y. 13021. Questions must be signed although we print initials only. No materials will be returned. Please include telephone number and notify us if you get action on consumer problems.

Recipe

Q. In October 1975 I sent to Golden Press for a "Finger Tip Recipe File" and enclosed a check for \$7.50. I have never received the order although I have written them many, many times. Two months ago they did ask for a copy of the cancelled check which I sent. (front and back

copied). I ordered this file for a girl. The girl is now leaving for the navy. I would appreciate any efforts on your part. RCW

A. We wrote the Golden Press, 175 Community Drive, Great Neck, N.Y. 11025 in your behalf and you called to say "all is okay now."

From the past

1956
From the files of The Auburn Citizen

Four hundred diners formally
the new ballroom at the Osborne Ho

1964
From the files of The Citizen-Advertiser

planners called for a study of Lake
bridge traffic. The bridge opened
1964



SMITH