

Eye on Washington by Stanley Ezrol

Cleaning out leftovers

On May 4, while Secretary of State Alexander Haig was away in Europe, I saw Edmund Muskie back at his old offices in the State Department. Department spokesmen would not deny that Ed was "in control." The State Department press staff is worried about how to sell Haig's policy of seeking closer friendship with the Guatemalan dictatorship. In a private conversation, one press officer said, "They're the meanest killers around."

I looked around the Council on Environmental Quality building on May 4, the last day at CEQ for most of the Carter administration leftovers who helped prepare the *Global 2000 Report* for the ex-President.

No one said why so many documents were being taken out of the building. Do some of the 80 percent of the CEQ staff who have been unable to find new jobs plan to release "The Environmental Papers" to the *New York Times*?

Those few CEQers who have found jobs are overpopulating the staffs of various radical environmentalist groups. Ex-chairman Gus Speth works for the Conservation Fund here in D.C. and the Hubert Humphrey Institute in Minnesota. Does he commute by bicycle? Jim McKenzie is at the Union of Concerned Scientists (sic), and R. Michael Wright is going to the World Wildlife Fund.

I want to know who got a new staff position at the U.S. Association for the organization dedicated to abolishing the Judeo-Christian tradition.

A number of CEQers were up for it. As the CEQ flakes left the building for the last time, they chanted, as a gibe against Interior Secretary Watt, "Mine every mountain, dam every stream, poison every coyote; that's my fondest dream." They should go to Idaho for an education.

State environmental prohibitions against poisoning coyotes have severely damaged the wool industry there. When an environmentalist advised the state senate to castrate all male coyotes, a farmer and senator, shocked at the environmentalist's perverse understanding of the problem, explained, "Ma'am, those coyotes aren't raping our sheep, they're eating them."

Some of these unemployed CEQers might find help at the State Department. Senator Charles Mathias (R-Md.) is circulating a letter telling his colleagues not to worry. In spite of Carter's defeat at the polls, the Haig State Department still supports Global 2000. Indeed, on May 13, State planned a closed session for its personnel on the Carter administration Global 2000 policy. (What was Ed Muskie doing there?) Kitty Gillman, a Global 2000 author, says that Jim Buckley, the "conservative" undersecretary of state for security assistance, is "practically best friends" with Russell Train, chairman of Citizens for the Year 2000 and board member of the World Wildlife Fund. Buckley roomed with Train while looking for a residence in the capital during the transition.

Odds and ends

CIA Director Bill Casey told the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, "The State Department had warnings . . . on Iran. . . . They had intelligence . . . there was a failure of more than intelligence in Iran." A former leading member of the Iran

Working Group throughout the crisis has been removed from the Iran desk and placed in a less sensitive position. The reason? "You can only lose a country once in your career." . . .

Seduction is still a widely used technique of political persuasion. At immigration policy hearings, Father Theodore Hesburgh characterized opposition to his "closed border" proposals by saying, "Many people find this guest worker proposal very seductive." Rep. Dan Lungren (R-Calif.), who supports a guest worker approach, replied, "This is the first time I've ever been accused of seduction, and I'm quite surprised, Father, to learn you are the seductee." . . .

At confirmation hearings, John Gavin, the President's choice to be ambassador to Mexico, was asked how an acting career qualified him to be an ambassador. "Mr. Senator," Gavin replied, "I have 40 movies that prove I have never been an actor."

Replacing the tip

I got some tips from the Democratic Party this week. It seems a lot of Democrats wanted to get a tip out.

The way someone near the House Majority leadership put it is, "If [my boss] had called for Tip O'Neill to be replaced because his leadership qualities had atrophied from lack of use, he would have gotten a standing ovation." Does this condition affect only the tip, or has it spread more widely in the party?

Tip got not a feather, but a Byrd in his cap when the Senate Minority Leader joined him in predicting defeat for a Democratic alternative budget. Charlie Manatt, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, is described by a friend as "the kid all the other kids hated at school."