



SHOP TALK

In August, this journal begins its 20th year of publication. To celebrate this fact somewhat prematurely, your editor is taking more time off than usual this summer. As a result the next two issues will be spread out more than usual. But have no fear, your subscription is based on issue number, not month, so you will receive the full number of issues you paid for.



This month we welcome to our ranks Mike Bell, a professor at the University of Colorado who is unusually well informed about words and language. He'll be contributing a column on these matters.



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Scum

R & D

dence to suggest that the development of a blue/green laser for submarine communications will yield such benefits. In FY 1984, 88% of military research and development funds went to development, while only 12% went to research (basic and applied). Moreover, the commitment to commercially useful research is increasingly taking a back seat to weapons development. Military R&D funds spent on the "technology base," the area with the greatest commercial application, grew only 34% from 1980 to 1984, while that for strategic (nuclear weapons) programs increased by over 350%.

In addition, military R&D is overwhelmingly concentrated in the aerospace and electronic industries, contributing little to the rest of the economy. One-third of the DoD's R&D budget goes to the electronics industry, but only 2.4% of national income is generated by that sector. In 1983, the DoD spent more for R&D on the B-1 bomber than the total research budget of the entire U.S. steel industry.

TOPICS

Anyway, Coehlo and Rep. Charles Pashayan (the only Armenian in Congress) were not dismayed and, in fact, came up with evidence right from the mouth of Mustapha Kemal, better known as Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey.

Writing in the Los Angeles Examiner on August 1, 1926, Kemal said that the Young Turk Party, the predecessor regime, "should have been made to account for the lives of millions of our

Christian subjects who were ruthlessly driven en masse from their homes and massacred."

In other respects, Kemal does not sound like an especially tolerant fellow. He warns that "I shall not stop until every guilty person, no matter how high his rank, has been hung from the gallows as a grim warning to all incipient plotters against the security of the Turkish Republic." And he spoke of some enemies of his regime who, when they "showed a disposition to challenge the will of the republic, I crushed them with an iron hand, and, for example, had over sixty of their leaders hanged at dawn." Sounds like Reagan might have liked him almost as much as Ozal.

FILE

could cause "both sides in Geneva to actually reduce the number of weapons threatening mankind. By making missiles less effective, we make these weapons more negotiable."

There has been a suspicion among White House correspondents that Reagan is more likely to call upon reporters at his news conference who are wearing Nancy Reagan's favorite color: red. At a recent conference, several journalists wore either red dresses or red ties. Sure enough, Reagan called upon one of them, long-time UPI correspondent Helen Thomas, with these words: "I know that Nancy upstairs would die — she's watching on television — if I didn't call on you in that pretty red dress."

You have heard, no doubt, about the Defense Department paying \$640 for a toilet seat. What you may not know is that in another part of the administration, plans are afoot to build homes for Indians — without any

bathrooms at all. You guessed it; just a matter of "budget constraints."



The Justice Department has asked 41 state, city and county governments to rewrite their affirmative action policies for at about 55 agencies. Said Omaha police chief Robert Wadman, "I wish they would mind their own business. It's unnecessary for the Justice Department to open old wounds." And the city attorney of Alexandria, La., commented, "If it works, don't fix it."



Reagan has said that the Nicaraguans were building "a war machine" that "dwarfs the forces of all their neighbors combined." This lie was neatly punctured by Joel Brinkley in the New York Times in a length piece that offered these statistics on Central American troop strength:

Nicaragua (armed forces and active militia) 60,000

El Salvador (armed forces, national guard, national and treasury police): 56,500.

Honduras (armed forces and public security forces): 26,500

Guatemala (Regular armed forces, treasury and national police): 51,000

Costa Rica (Civil and rural guards and civil militia): 19,500

The report also noted that Vice President Bush has said that Nicaragua has "over 150 tanks." According to Defense Department officials, Nicaragua has only 110 tanks, 25 to 30 years old. Further, much of the country is too hilly for tanks. And if they were going to be used against Honduras, the Nicaraguans would have to load them on flat bed trucks and take them up the Pan-American Highway where they would be easy targets for Honduras's two dozen jet fighters and bombers.

And speaking of planes, Reagan also told reporters in 1983 that Nicaragua had "fighter planes, bombers and so forth." In fact, the country has no jet fighters or bombers and no modern combat aircraft except for ten Soviet-built helicopter gunships.

WEATHER

The planned retirement of House Speaker "Tip" O'Neill could trigger a political fight involving two of the best-known names in American politics. Considering a run for the Massachusetts seat are Edward Kennedy, Junior, son of the senator, and James Roosevelt, Junior, FDR's grandson. Kennedy's biggest obstacle could be his age: house members must be at least 25, and his 25th birthday is just three months before the election in November, 1986.

The comparable worth movement is picking up steam in Europe.

The Wall Street Journal notes the concept of "equal pay for equal work" in Europe dates back to the start of the Common Market, but says it wasn't until last year, when a European court ordered Britain to live up to comparable worth goals, that the comparable worth settlements began appearing in earnest.

Unlike the situation in the U.S., many of the European settlements stem from union contracts, rather than individual or class-action suits; says the *Journal*. A national contract resulting from one such case is due to go into effect this month. Under the settlement, about 25,000 women collators and binders will get raises over the next three years, bringing them up to the pay levels of men who drive forklifts or assist on printing machines.

CITY DESK

easier to get than almost anywhere else. One reason for this is that DC does not use meters. Without meters there is no incentive for large companies to take over the cab business with the inevitable reduction in the number of cabs. It is simply too hard for the companies to monitor their drivers. As a result, DC's cab business is a rare example of the free enterprise system in operation. Further, with a zone system there is a strong incentive for cab drivers to take riders the most expeditious route. There are, to be sure, many problems with the existing system, but those that are related to the payment system could be largely corrected by redrawing the zones. Splitting Zone One in two would be a good place to start.

DC's other example of a highly competitive and job-producing industry is the street vending business. As pointed out here before, the city has gone out of its way to make life hard on the vendors, most recently with ridiculous legislation that restricts the items that can be sold and requires that non-food vendors have expensive wooden carts. Now the vendors are striking back. Not only have two hundred of them joined the Service Employees International Union, but that union has filed suit against the city to prevent the enforcement of the new rules.

The DC Superior Court now has a small claims mediation service and plans in the fall to initiate a domestic relations mediation service. According to one bar association official, other jurisdictions that have a small claims mediation service find that about 25% of the cases end up there. DC is running about 25,000 small claims cases a year. The thirty mediators were trained by the Center for Community Justice.

Many readers will recall that not so long ago the Board of Elections provided a good deal of laughs and/or aggravation. Not any more. Under the directorship of Emmet Fremaux Jr., the management of elections has improved greatly. Another indication comes recently with word that the board is sending out non-forwardable postcards to all voters to make sure they are still at the same address. If the post office returns the cards, the board will send a forwardable notice to the voter warning them to reregister at the right address or be struck from the rolls. The board plans to do this canvas on an annual basis.

The DC Coalition for Justice has been formed to fight plans to construct another prison for DC. The prison idea, being pushed by Senator Arlen Specter (who is running hard for re-election), could end up costing the city a lot of money even if the federal government funds the construction. According to the National Institute of Corrections, a \$6.5 million "gift" for construction of only a 150-inmate prison will cost the city \$1.9 million in annual operating costs. It costs about \$15,000 a year to house a prisoner. The coalition can be contacted at 600 Pennsylvania Ave. SE #301, DC 20003



- The Samaritans, a volunteer suicide prevention organization, have opened a Washington office at 719 8th St SE. Founded in England about thirty years ago, the Samaritans are now operating in 44 countries and have ten branches in the US. Although primarily concerned with those in immediate danger of taking their lives, they also help people in crisis or despair. To contact the Samaritans for help, call 546-6232. Volunteers are needed

Roses and Thorns

- Roses to Marjorie Hunt and Paul Wagner for winning an Oscar for their documentary on the stonecarvers at the National Cathedral.

- Thorns to the Barry administration for letting DC become the pothole capital of the nation. A national survey finds DC having 121 potholes per mile. Montana is in second place with 106 potholes per mile.

- Roses to DC police officer Amelia Scott for refusing to take a urinalysis test after a judge suggested she was under the influence of drugs while on the witness stand. She was held in civil contempt for refusing Judge Rufus King's order. In fact, Scott had been working overtime and had had only ten hours sleep in the three days before the trial. She was asleep in the witness room when called to testify. Her fellow officers have leaped to her defense and her attorney says of the fine, "she is not going to pay anything. There are enough officers who will put in money."

- Roses to DC Superior Court Judge Henry Greene for encouraging note-taking and the submission of written questions of witnesses by the jury. Montgomery County, among other jurisdictions, permits note-taking. And Greene says no state or federal jurisdiction specifically prohibits the practice of jury questions.

and are given a training program. For information call Ellen Stark at 546-1544.

- **Citizens Against Crime:** An assessment of the neighborhood watch program by Jeffrey Henig. Copies can be obtained for \$2.50 each from the Center for Washington Area Studies, School of Public and International Affairs, George Washington University, DC 20052.
- A review of crime novels set in Washington by Bernard Mergen is contained in the spring issue of Washington Works, obtainable from the Center for Washington Studies, George Washington University, DC 20052.
- Friendship House will hold its annual Market Day on May 5 on Seventh Street SE between Penna. Ave. and North Carolina Ave.
- The Commission on Judicial Disability and Tenure is currently reviewing the qualifications of two judges who are seeking reappointment to the Superior Court bench: George Revercomb and Eugene Hamilton. Persons and organizations wishing to comment on the qualifications of these two judges can write the commission no later than June 10. The names of the persons submitting material will be kept confidential unless otherwise expressly authorized. Write the commission at Building A, Room 312, 515 Fifth St NW DC 20001.
- The American University Hotline, which has been operating since 1969, is open from six pm to two am every night. The hotline is student-run and provides crisis intervention and information for those in need. Call 885-TALK.
- WPFW has begun broadcasting programs of the Great Atlantic Radio Conspiracy on Mondays at 2 pm. GARC is an organization that produces radio programs geared to a variety of progressive interests. First programs in the series covered such subjects as rewriting the history of Vietnam, rape crisis centers and unemployment.
- The Network Connection, a national clearinghouse and support system for women in business has opened a branch office at 2520 Columbia Pike, Arlington, Va. Info: 685-1608

STONE

Koppel: But you still support slavery as an institution?

Davis: Unequivocally! As I have said, it bears to capital as kind a relationship as can exist between them anywhere. The present arrangement is best for the two races. The Negro is an inferior being, nothing more than a grownup child, improvident, who, if free, would be a burden to society. Removed from the shelter of his master, he would languish and starve perhaps, even worse, relapse into total extinction.

Koppel: What about Mr. Scott's prediction of more violence, a possible war?

Davis: Absurd. But the South will fight to preserve its sacred institutions.

Koppel: Thank you, Mr. Davis. We've run out of time. This has been a special edition of "Nightline" on slavery. I'm Ted Koppel. Good evening.

Philadelphia Daily News

VETS

Finally, he got a cot at the shelter. Now he is facing six months in jail, but "at least I know I'll have a place to stay."

Jessie Mays hasn't walked the long road from Khe Sanh to a shelter alone. Homeless providers in major cities see vets every night—46 percent of the single men in this city's shelter system are veterans, the majority of them Vietnam vets.

Jail is the other side of the shelter system for many of them as it is for Jessie—about one in five inmates nationwide are vets, 90 percent of those from Vietnam.

"A third to a half of the homeless men in any given shelter on any given night in America are veterans," says Rick Weidman, government relations director for the Washington-based Vietnam Veterans of America. "It's a national shame."

Many, he says, followed a route like that of Jessie Mays. "The 1982 recession caught a lot of guys struggling on the middle class borderline. They lost their jobs first, then their homes. Then they had no fixed address. It's hard to break back into the job market when you're shaving in restrooms. They went down."

In California, a recent study found that during the '82 recession, Vietnam vets were unemployed an average of 31 weeks longer than non-vets—and those

who saw combat were out of work 22 weeks longer than those who did not.

Generally, combat vets have fared much worse than other Vietnam-era soldiers. In California—which has more Vietnam-era vets than any other state—the median income of combat vets is \$5,600, 40 percent lower than other vets. In New York City, a recent survey found that men who had seen heavy combat were unemployed at three times the rate of those who had minimal contact with enemy troops.

Ironically, the VA—which combat vets like Mays deeply distrust because they think it favors vets of more “honorable” wars—may bear some responsibility for the large number of pre-Vietnam era vets in the nation’s shelters. Like civilian hospitals, the VA has sent its psychiatric patients out into the world, and the number of beds for disturbed vets has dropped 60 percent since the mid-1960s. In addition, those with honorable discharges are seen first, which makes admission especially difficult for those most likely to need care.

Weidman says “The VA is failing its congressional mandate to reach out to the homeless.” He wants the agency to send assessment teams into shelters. “Right now, you have to die to get the VA’s attention.”

“We make every effort to inform veterans of their benefits,” says VA spokesman Ozzie Garza. “Sometimes, we can’t locate them at all—but it’s not for lack of trying.”

But Vincent Muscari, of New York State’s Division of Veterans’ Affairs, says “The VA is not a social service agency.” Last year, his office screened 153 homeless vets, and found only 30 were eligible for VA benefits. Many had bad conduct discharges, or too little time in service, and 50 just disappeared back into the shelter system.

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LETTERS

ings testifying for rent control indicated that her and her husband’s combined income was nearly \$40,000 per year and controlled rent including some utilities about \$650 per month (or \$8,000 per year), a mere 20 percent of income. Many poor families in rent-controlled or nonrent-controlled housing pay considerably more than 20%; likely this \$40,000 a year couple could likewise do so. If we are concerned about quality housing for the needy, Councilmember Betty Ann Kane’s proposal to cap rents at 30% of income and allow housing providers to deduct the difference between the capped rent and the market rent from their property tax is the way to go. How-

ever, for the government to be generous with other people’s money (i.e., housing providers’) is socially irresponsible.

(6) Rent control will ultimately so destroy housing providers’ incentives to keep up property that housing will deteriorate to a point where it is so shabby that only the poor will live in it, not out of choice, but out of having no other choice. At that point, D.C. will become a city of the rich (who can easily afford their own housing) and the poor in rent-controlled dilapidated buildings barely meeting code, if even that, in boarded-up neighborhoods. Since the suburbs have free market rents, D.C. becomes a mecca for the poor, thereby relieving the suburbs of their responsibility to shoulder their share of social services for poorer citizens. If the middle class flecks to the suburbs, while the poor come to D.C. for rent-controlled housing, the tax base on which rests our ability to provide for the poor is eroded and the social services we can provide are thereby limited.

Housing should *not* be treated like regulated industries like PEPCO or the taxicabs because no basis for such regulation exists. The utilities are regulated because they are natural monopolies and taxis are regulated because they compete with public transportation and use public roads. Moreover, regulation of utilities insures profits for the regulated companies and for taxicabs sets uniform rates which to date have not impaired profitability nor availability of adequate service. Apartments are neither natural monopolies nor inherent users of public space and therefore no basis for regulating them exists using utilities and taxis as justifications. However, if housing were regulated on the same basis as most other regulated industries, i.e., guaranteed profits, I am sure landlords could be persuaded to acquiesce into going along.

Dino Joseph Drudi
Brookland, DC

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THE ESSENTIAL EARTHMAN: Henry Mitchell on Gardening. This is not just another book on gardening but the thoughts of an enthusiast who comes to the subject with reverence, passion, humor and a sober knowledge of human frailty. The Essential Earthman believes, for example, "a lawn 17 by 20 feet is just fine, if you think a lawnless life is not worth living *** But I suspect many gardeners would do well to think of something besides grass and the little noisy juggernauts you cut with." This is a collection of many of Mitchell's most popular pieces from the Washington Post. ~~\$12.95~~ ~~82~~ ~~87~~ ~~86~~ 85

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